10 WOMEN'S PROTESTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

LUCY WORSLEY'S ROYAL FIBS

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HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES

The lives and loves of the women who shaped a dynasty

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ISSUE 88 / DECEMBER 2020 / £5.50

PLUS What if the Gunpowder Plot had succeeded? Who invented the Nazi salute?

The Battle of Mount Badon

Ambrosius, Arthur and the defence of Britain by Alistair Hall

The Battle of Mount Badon published by Raven Fell brings the events leading to the end of Roman Britain and the impact of the decline of the Western Roman Empire into sharper focus. How did the Anglo-Saxons so quickly present the "invincible force" described by Bede and which "kings of the Britons", mentioned in the *Historia Brittonum*, engaged and eventually defeated them? With a stunning new perspective Alistair Hall questions the generally held chronology for fifth century Britain and proposes a comprehensive and plausible solution from the many clues that reside in the landscape and topography of northern Britain. In due course this book will become recognised as the game changer that edged King Arthur out of legend and into history.

The Battle of
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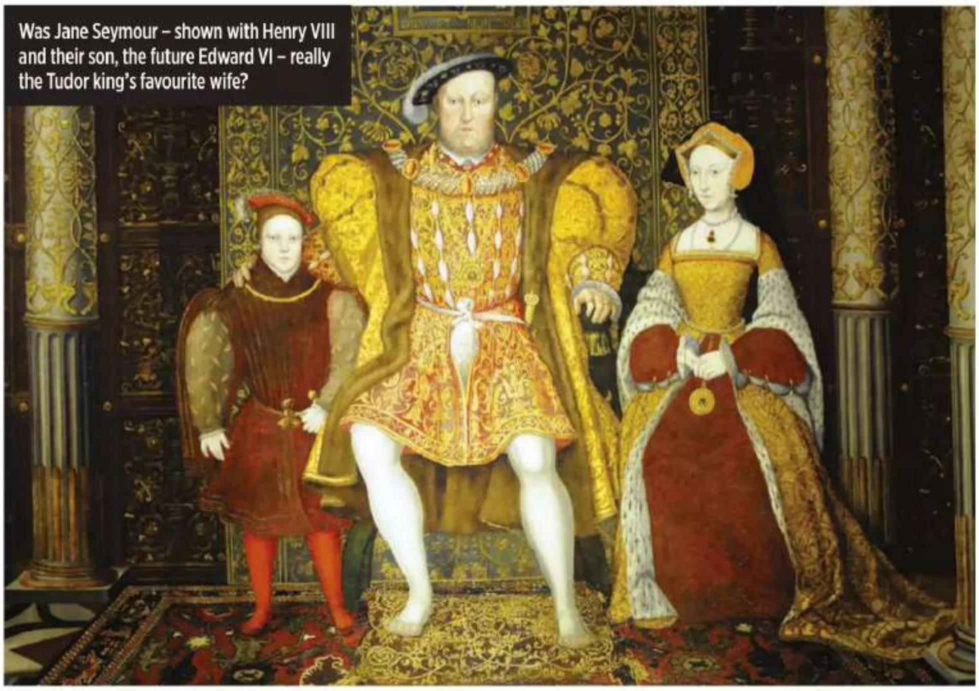
WELCOME DECEMBER 2020


Was Jane Seymour – shown with Henry VIII and their son, the future Edward VI – really the Tudor king's favourite wife?

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived: it's a mnemonic that has been used for years as an aid to remembering the order, and fates, of Henry VIII's wives. But what else do we know about the women who caught the eye of the infamous Tudor king, and how did he really feel about them? In this month's essential guide, we've teamed up with **Tudor historian Tracy Borman to take a closer look at the six women** who helped found one of England's most famous royal dynasties. Turn to page 26 to find out more.

It's not just royal women who have made history. For centuries, women have taken to the streets to protest on a host of issues – **from women's rights and opposition to Apartheid laws, to colonial interference and nuclear weapons**. We explore ten historic women's protests, from page 64.

Elsewhere, **we talk to historian Lucy Worsley about her latest BBC series, *Royal History's Biggest Fibs*** and find out why Marie Antoinette has become a scapegoat for the French Revolution (*page 61*); discuss **what might have happened had the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 been successful** – and what the plotters had in store for England (*page 70*); explore the tragic history of the Holocaust (*page 21*), and discover why Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great suspension bridge in Bristol took so long to get off the ground (*page 16*). We also answer some intriguing historical questions, such as **why do we say 'God bless you' after a sneeze?** Find out on page 74.

Finally, don't forget to **check out this month's great subscription deals, which could see you receive a free book worth up to £30!** Turn to page 24 for more details.

Until next month, stay safe.

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

Charlotte

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

3
The number of books published by Henry VIII's sixth wife, Katherine Parr, during their marriage

20,000
The number of women who marched on Pretoria in 1956 to protest against Pass Laws

338,226
The number of men saved in a "miracle of deliverance" from the beaches of Dunkirk in WWII

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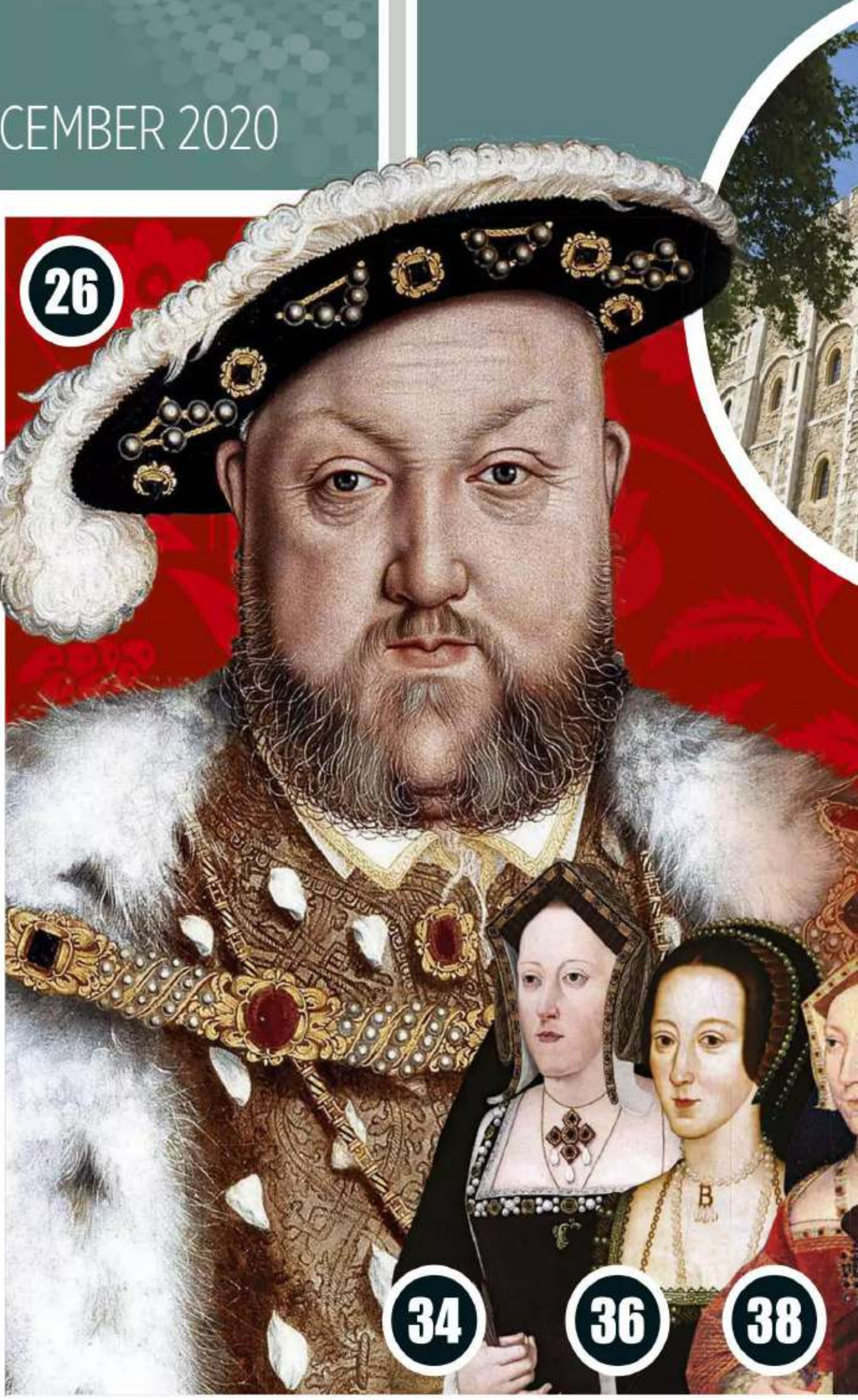

▲ Henry VIII ruled for nearly 40 years, but is perhaps still best remembered for his seismic love life

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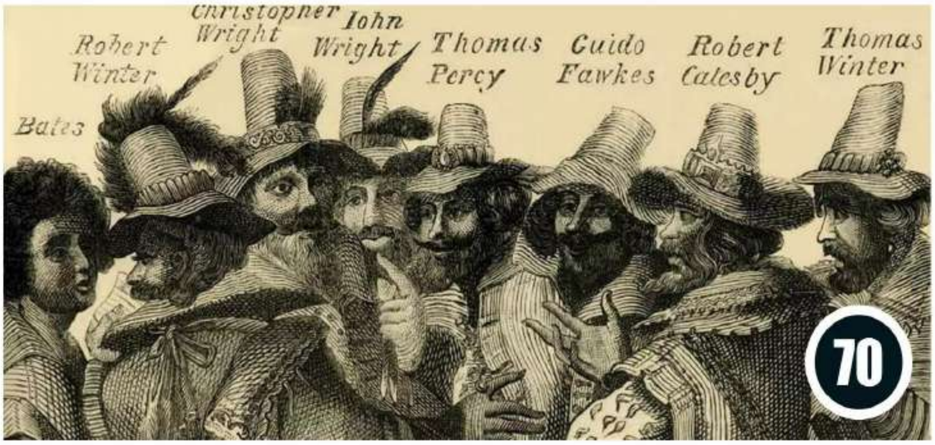

▲ What would we remember, remember if Guy Fawkes had lit the fuse?

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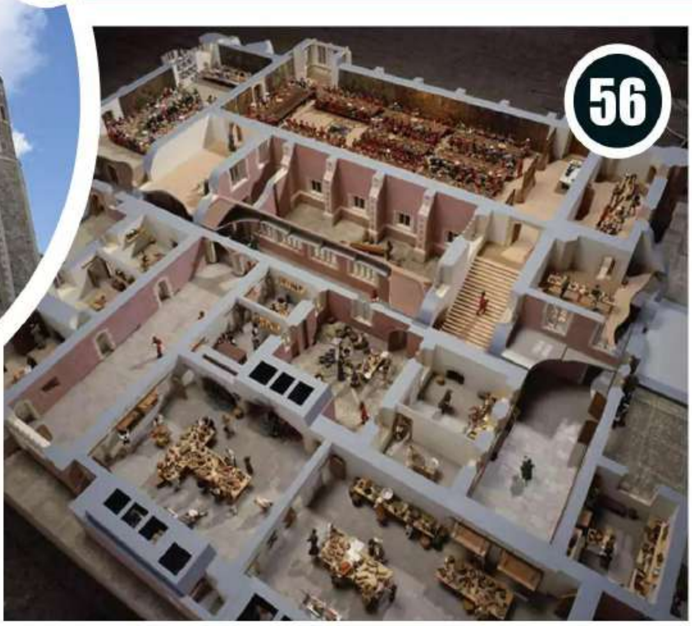

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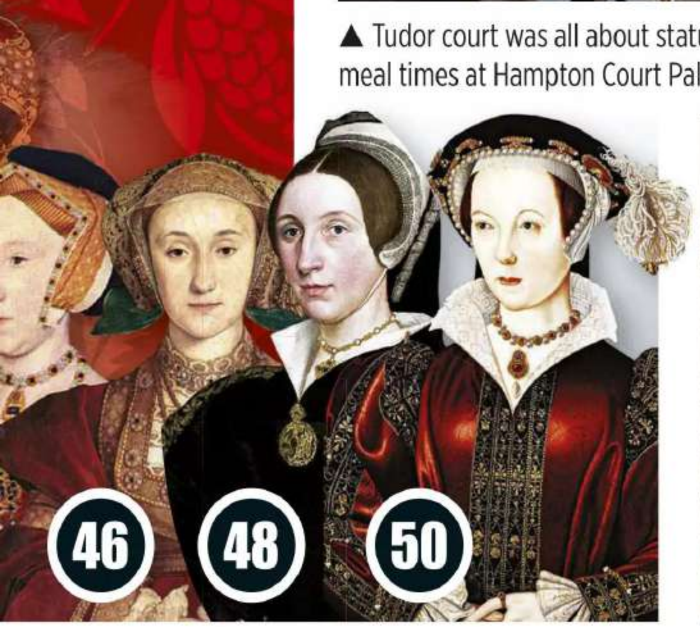
▲ Tudor court was all about status, especially during meal times at Hampton Court Palace



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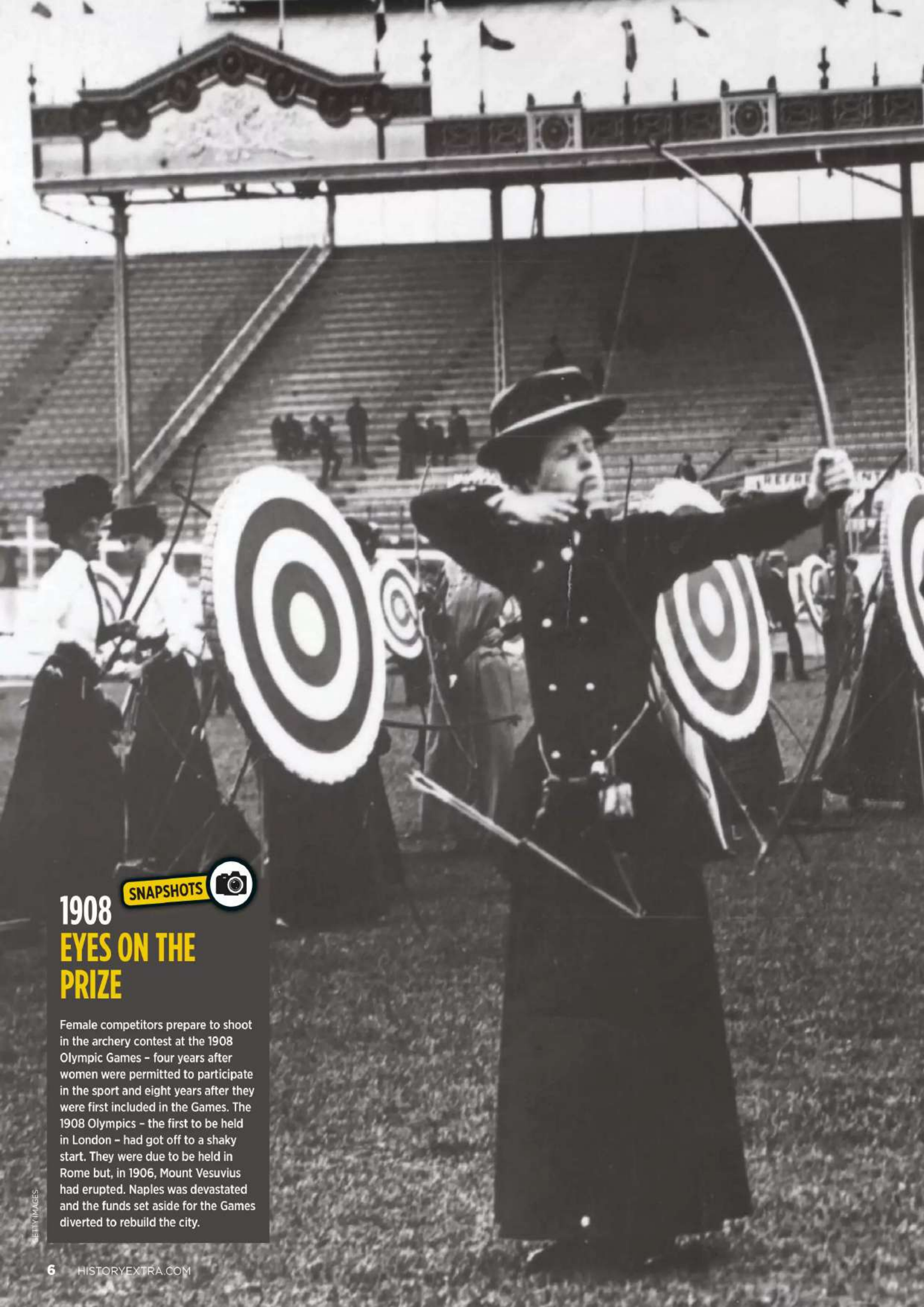

SNAPSHOTS

1908

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Female competitors prepare to shoot in the archery contest at the 1908 Olympic Games – four years after women were permitted to participate in the sport and eight years after they were first included in the Games. The 1908 Olympics – the first to be held in London – had got off to a shaky start. They were due to be held in Rome but, in 1906, Mount Vesuvius had erupted. Naples was devastated and the funds set aside for the Games diverted to rebuild the city.

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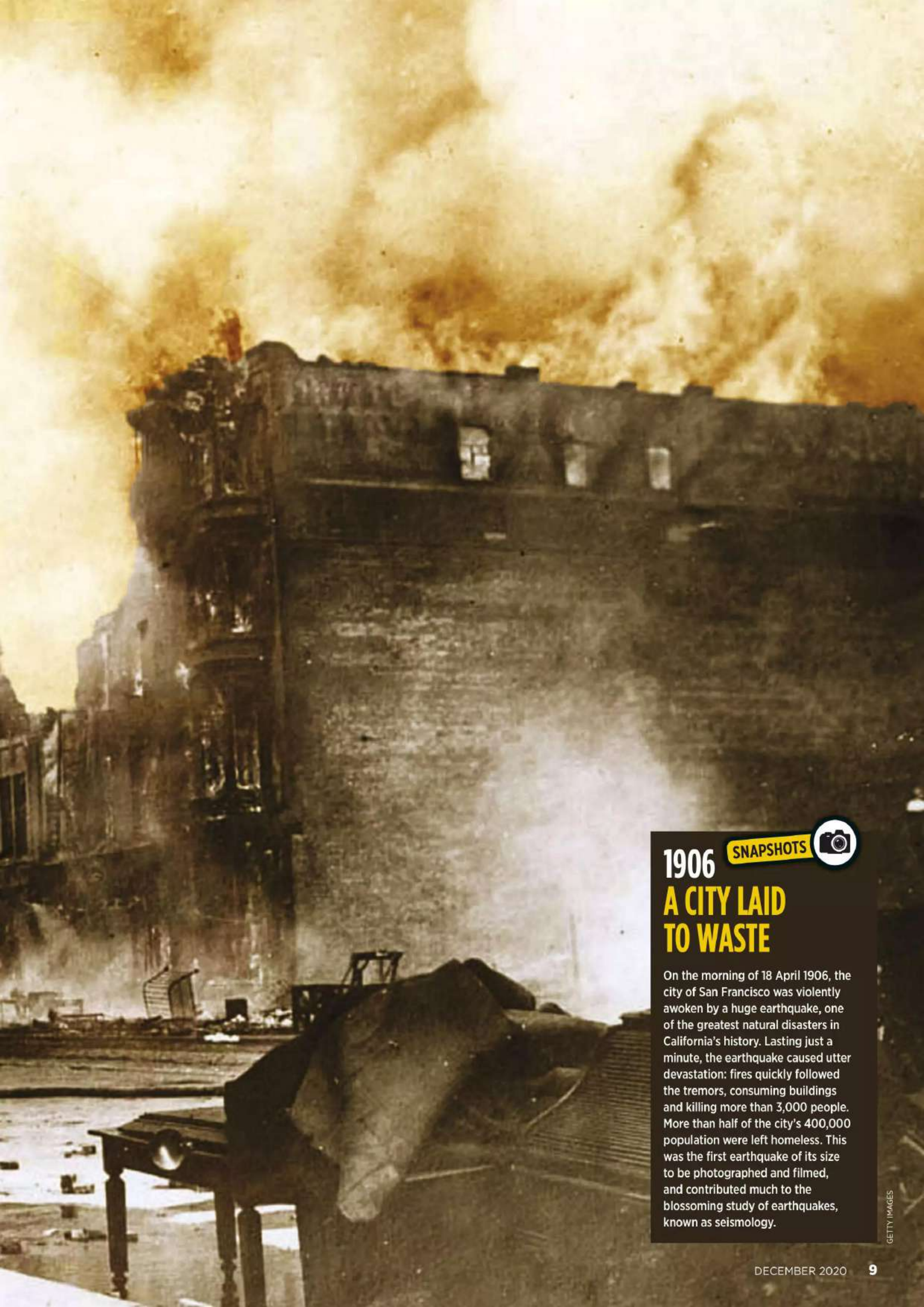

SNAPSHOTS

1906

A CITY LAID TO WASTE

On the morning of 18 April 1906, the city of San Francisco was violently awoken by a huge earthquake, one of the greatest natural disasters in California's history. Lasting just a minute, the earthquake caused utter devastation: fires quickly followed the tremors, consuming buildings and killing more than 3,000 people. More than half of the city's 400,000 population were left homeless. This was the first earthquake of its size to be photographed and filmed, and contributed much to the blossoming study of earthquakes, known as seismology.

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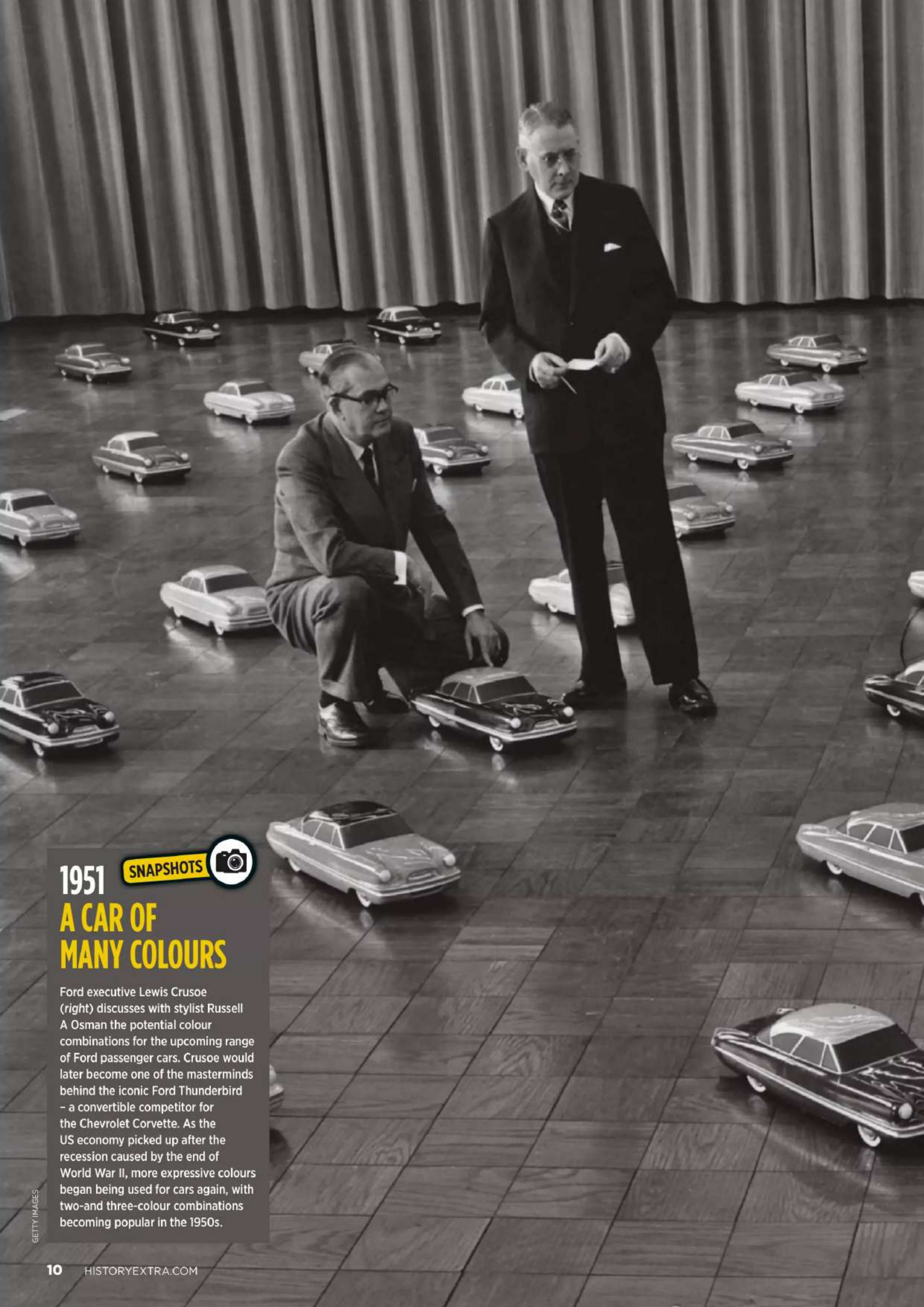


SNAPSHOTS

1951

A CAR OF MANY COLOURS

Ford executive Lewis Crusoe (*right*) discusses with stylist Russell A Osman the potential colour combinations for the upcoming range of Ford passenger cars. Crusoe would later become one of the masterminds behind the iconic Ford Thunderbird – a convertible competitor for the Chevrolet Corvette. As the US economy picked up after the recession caused by the end of World War II, more expressive colours began being used for cars again, with two-and three-colour combinations becoming popular in the 1950s.

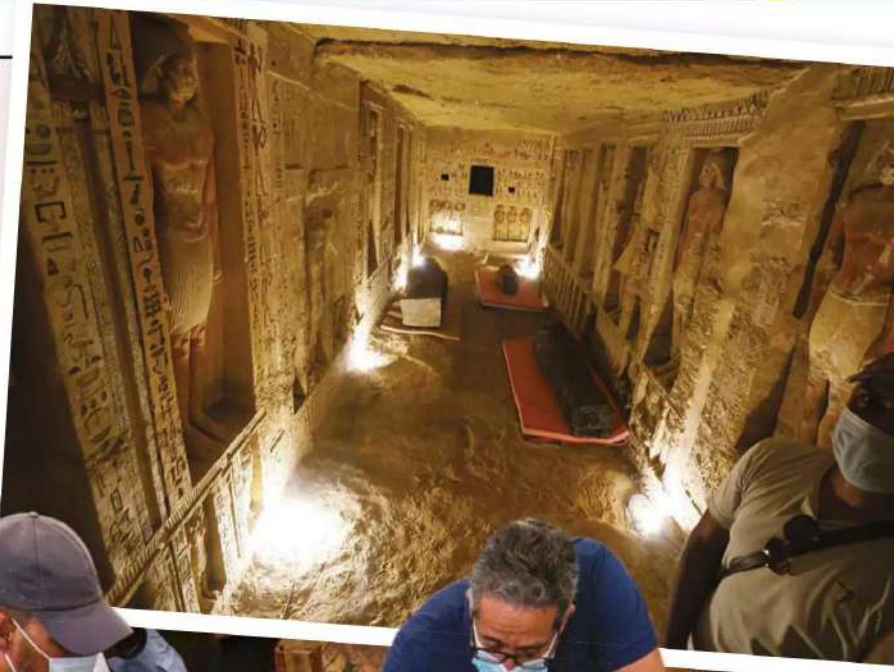
GETTY IMAGES

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

EGYPTIAN NECROPOLIS YIELDS IMPRESSIVE TREASURES

Hidden for 2,500 years, 59 sarcophagi have been uncovered in the Egyptian necropolis at Saqqara, south of Cairo. For more than 3,000 years, Saqqara was used as a burial ground for the inhabitants of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis. The 59 sarcophagi were found in wells, and are believed to be the largest find of their kind. The wooden coffins, with mummies inside, appear to have been undisturbed since they were originally buried and many of the coffins are ornately decorated. Egypt's Antiquities Minister, Khaled el-Anany, believes this is only the start of a huge discovery at Saqqara.



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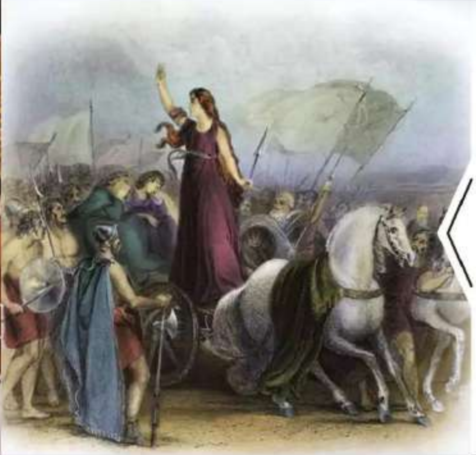
MEDIEVAL BAKERY FOUND IN IRELAND

The remains of a sourdough bread bakery have been found during a dig at a medieval monastic settlement in Meath. A communal toilet was also discovered, with a pot thought to be have been used as an air freshener. Last year, the discovery of 13th-century French jugs and other finds supported the idea that the site was once home to Cistercian monks from Normandy. From the size of the bread oven, archaeologists have estimated that between 30-50 monks lived at the site.

100 GREAT BLACK BRITONS ANNOUNCED

A list celebrating the 100 greatest Black Britons of the last 400 years has been released. Booker Prize-winning author Bernardine Evaristo and film director Steve McQueen (*both pictured below*) have been included on the list, alongside Crimean War nurse Mary Seacole, former slave and abolitionist Olaudah Equiano, actor Idris Elba, and Olympian Mo Farah. The full list can be accessed online at *100greatblackbritons.co.uk*. All the entries can also be found in a book, *100 Great Black Britons*, published earlier this year.



ROMANO-BRITISH TEMPLE UNEARTHED

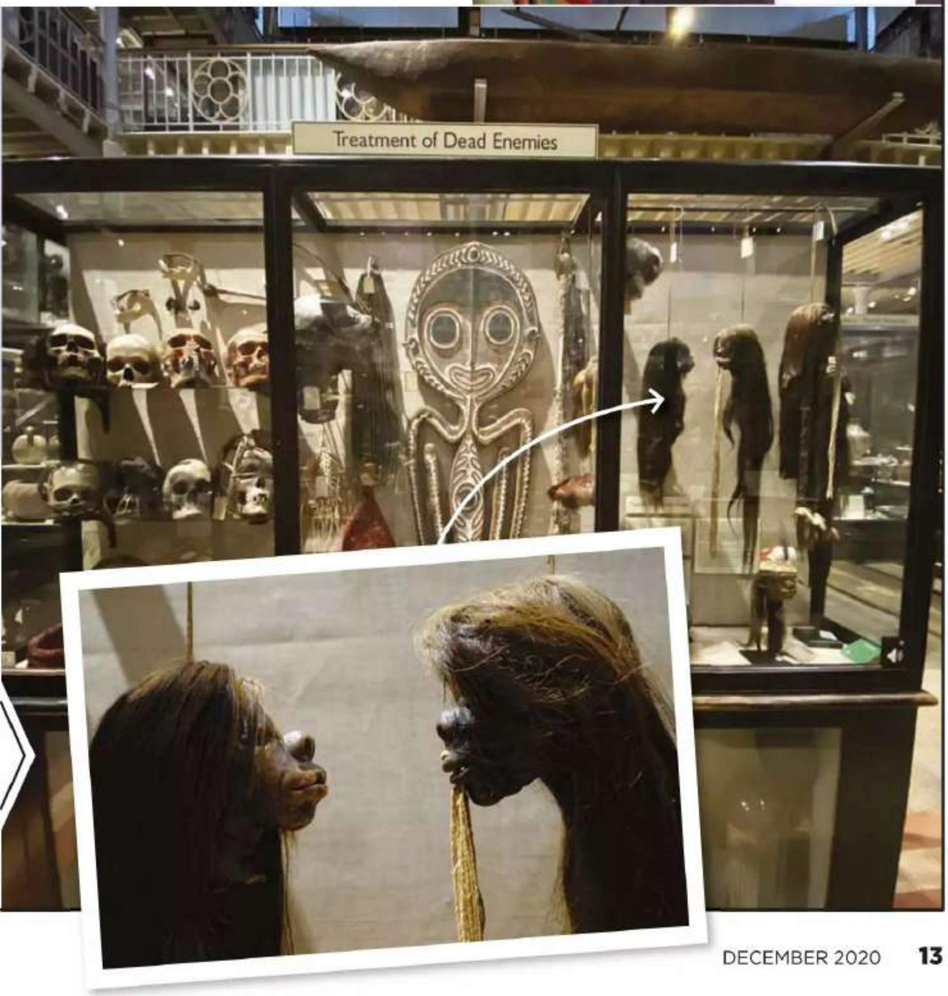
One of the largest temples of Roman Britain has been uncovered during a dig at Caistor St Edmund. The site near Norwich was once the base of the Brittonic Iceni tribe – famous for its revolt against Roman rule in AD 61, led by Boudica (*pictured left*). The temple was first discovered in 1957, but its true size has only just come to light. The temple measures 20m by 20m and was of great importance to the Iceni – though it's unknown which gods were worshipped there. As well as being one of the largest temples of its kind, it shows that the Iceni had ample resources to create such buildings.

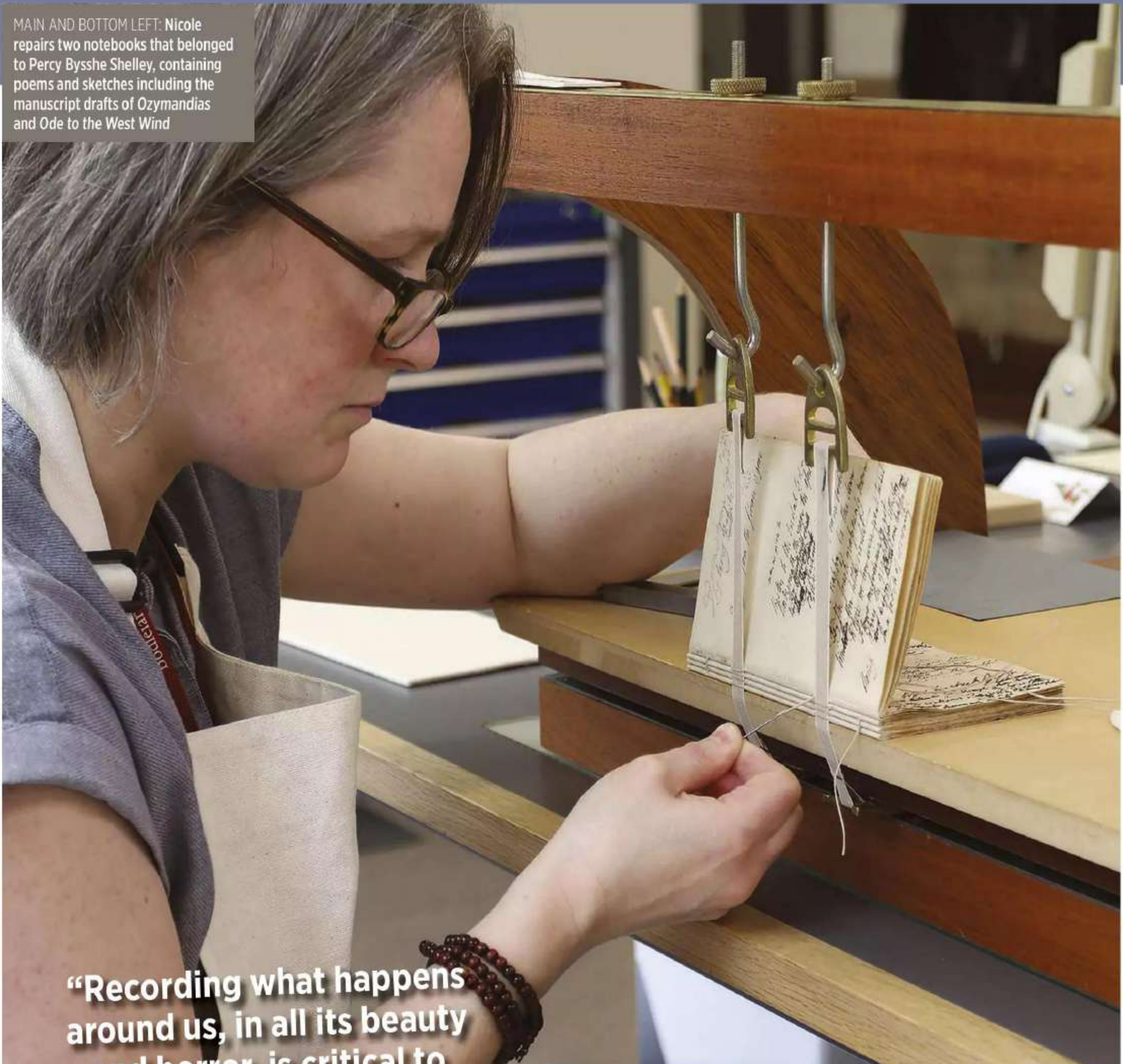
£8,500

The amount that a rare silver coin depicting King Stephen recently sold for at auction. The 12th-century coin was found by a metal detectorist on the Lincolnshire/South Yorkshire border

SHRUNKEN HEADS REMOVED FROM DISPLAY

The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford has removed its famous South American shrunken heads (*right*) from display. A decolonisation review has seen 120 human remains, including the heads, put into the museum's storage. In the official press release, Director of the Museum, Laura Van Broekhoven, said: "Our audience research has shown that visitors often saw the museum's displays of human remains as a testament to other cultures being 'savage', 'primitive' or 'gruesome'... The displays reinforced racist and stereotypical thinking that goes against the museum's values today."





MAIN AND BOTTOM LEFT: **Nicole repairs two notebooks that belonged to Percy Bysshe Shelley, containing poems and sketches including the manuscript drafts of *Ozymandias* and *Ode to the West Wind***

> **"Recording what happens around us, in all its beauty and horror, is critical to being human"**

ABOVE: **Nicole and colleague Andrew Honey resewing the 12th-century *Winchester Bible* – one of the finest examples of an illuminated bible ever made**

COURTESY OF THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES/UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD X5, THE WINCHESTER BIBLE: REPRODUCED COURTSEY OF THE CHAPTER/WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

MY LIFE IN HISTORY

MEET THE PEOPLE BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

Head of Book Conservation at the Bodleian Library

Nicole Gilroy

WHAT DOES YOUR ROLE AS HEAD OF BOOK CONSERVATION ENTAIL?

I lead a team of seven bookbinders and conservators. Our purpose is to preserve, protect and make accessible the materials of the Library, a task which covers many types of work.

We repair modern books (by which we mean post-1850) on the open shelves and in the other University libraries, as well as carry out fast turnaround work on new acquisitions for the Rare Books, Archives and Manuscript department. Major repair projects also fall into our remit. These might be books or manuscripts associated with an upcoming exhibition, a research interest, or something that has been in need of repair for years and which can only be treated with the help of funding.

One of the most exciting aspects of my job is education and outreach. The Library supports the research and teaching of students and researchers from Oxford and other universities, and our teams add a unique perspective on the materiality of texts and their production.

Nicole binding a 15th-century *Gesta Romanorum* – a compendium of stories and tales written in Latin – with calf skin

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING PROJECT YOU'VE WORKED ON?

I'm afraid this is like asking me to choose between my children. As part of the Ligatus project I've worked on fragments of the *Codex Sinaiticus*, the monumental 4th-century Greek biblical manuscript, in its home on Mount Sinai in Egypt.

But the less grand projects can be equally moving. I worked on the papers of the pacifist and humanitarian Emily Hobhouse, in which she describes, reports on and lectures the public about the British concentration camps during the Boer War.

The papers of the Anti-Slavery Movement, which my team worked through over a number of years, contained a newspaper clipping of a "Lost and Found" advert for the return of an escaped slave, using the patterns of scarring on his body as his identifying feature. Material like this reminds me that the value of libraries and archives is not limited to the distant past, nor is it all about gold leaf and the beautiful painting. Recording what happens around us, in all its beauty or horror, whether as a journalist, a poet or an artist, is critical to being human.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE BOOK OR OBJECT AT THE BODLEIAN?

Can I have two? I never stop marvelling at the *Aurora Australis*, a completely mad project dreamed up by Ernest Shackleton on his Antarctic expedition in 1907. He had noticed the danger of allowing his men to get bored, and realised he had to keep them engaged. For reasons known only to him, he decided that a suitable activity would be to typeset, print and bind a book "printed at the sign of the penguin", and bound with boards made out of packing cases. The Bodleian's copy has boards bearing part of a label for "devilled kidneys".

The printing presses, type, ink and paper were dragged across the ice on a sled. Having had a go myself at typesetting and having watched the Library's heavy printing presses be manhandled around, the idea of doing such work in the freezing cold, having to take off one's mittens, and get the thick sticky ink to spread, then dry, is utterly mind-blowing.

Another favourite is a set of notes sent by Mary Wollstonecraft to her husband William Godwin in 1797. Mary wrote constantly to William, often several times in a day, and this continued in the days leading up to the birth of their daughter, Mary, who would later become Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*. Wollstonecraft comments variously on her boredom, impatience to meet her child – "I have no doubt of seeing the animal today but must wait for Mrs Blenkensop to guess at the hour; I have sent for her" – and her confidence that the midwife had everything in hand: "Mrs Blenkensop tells me that I am in the most natural state, and can promise me a safe delivery - but that I must have a little patience."

Sadly Mary developed purpureal fever and died ten days after her daughter's birth. I had the privilege of installing these notes in the Shelley's Ghost exhibition at the Bodleian in 2010, shortly before the birth of my own first daughter, and so their tone was especially poignant. ⊙

NICOLE GILROY is Head of Book Conservation at the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library. Find out more about the library at *bodleian.ox.ac.uk*

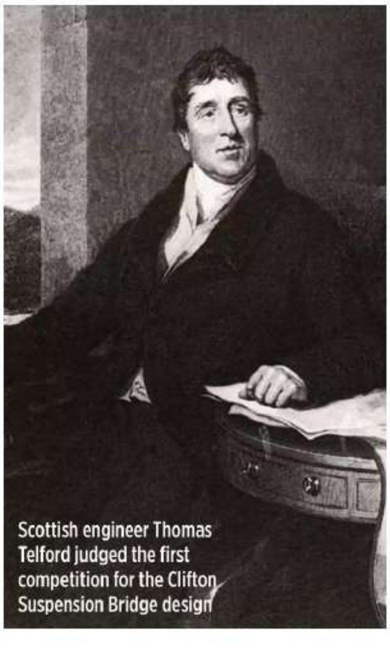
The Clifton Suspension Bridge opens

Words: Emma Slattery Williams

On 8 December 1864, the city of Bristol celebrated the opening of its new iron suspension bridge with a whole day of festivities – yet the finishing touches were still being made just a day earlier. The completion of this epic feat of engineering had been far from plain sailing.

If you visit Bristol in southwest England today, it's unlikely that you'll be able to miss its most prominent landmark, standing 76m above the River Avon. The Clifton Suspension Bridge spans 214m across the Avon Gorge, and connects the Georgian suburb of Clifton with Leigh Woods in North Somerset. It's an iconic sight in the city and one of the world's oldest-surviving iron suspension bridges.

Bristol gets its name from a bridge – its old English name was Brycgstow, meaning 'place at the bridge', which over time evolved into 'Bristol'. The first stone bridge to cross the River Avon – Bristol Bridge – was erected in the 13th century, with shops and houses built on it, but by the 18th century, the increase of traffic had made it too dangerous for pedestrians to cross, so a new bridge was commissioned, designed and built. But as the city continued to increase in both size and population, a further crossing of the river was proposed.



Scottish engineer Thomas Telford judged the first competition for the Clifton Suspension Bridge design

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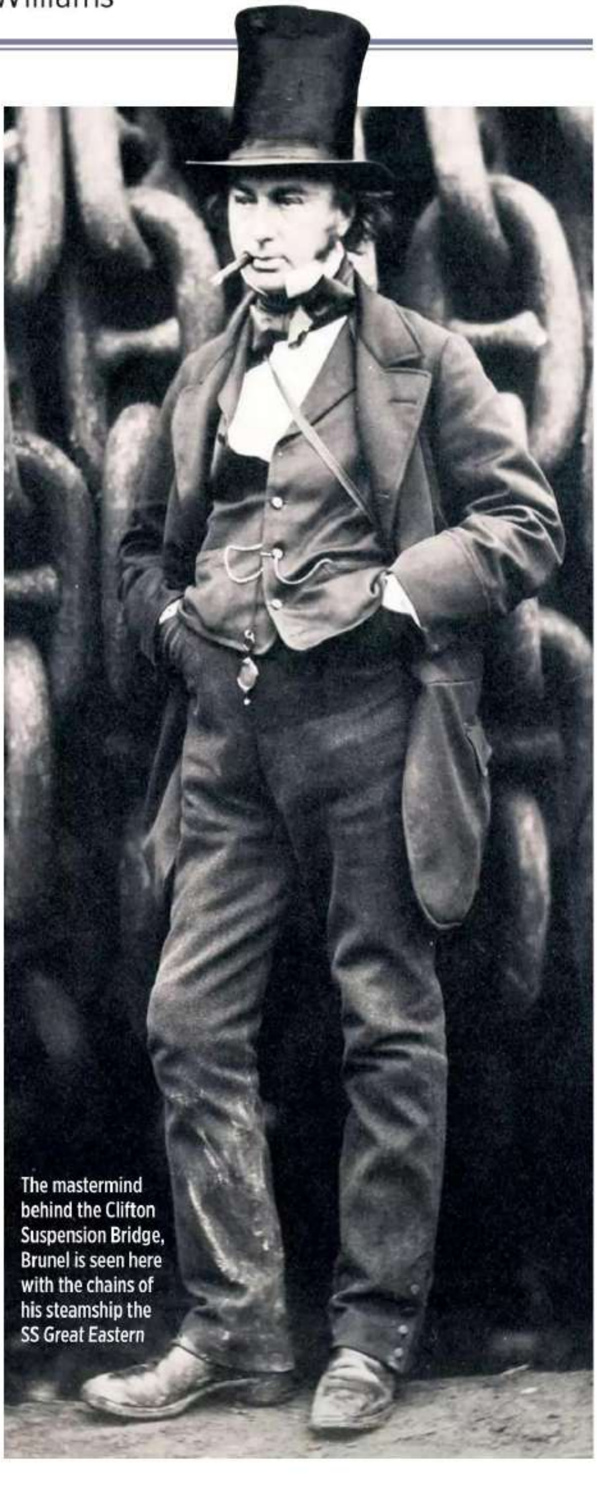
The port of Bristol had, by now, become one of the most important in the country and the shipping trade was the city's main source of income. It was a main processing point for sugar and tobacco imported from the colonies, and played a major part in the transatlantic slave trade. What's more, the Admiralty had decreed that any new bridge built in Bristol had to be at least 30m above the water level so that warships could dock. This left few options except to create huge embankments or build a bridge over the Avon Gorge.

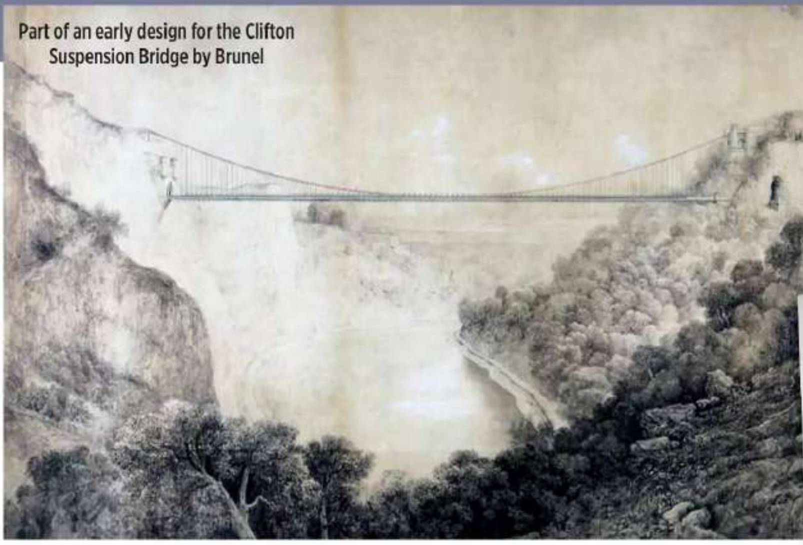
BATTLE OF THE DESIGNERS

Upon his death in 1754, wine merchant William Vick left £1,000 (about £140,000 in today's money) in his will to the Society of Merchant Venturers. His desire was that the money should be invested until it had reached the sum of £10,000, at which point it should be used to build a toll-free stone bridge. What Vick did not know, however, is that it would take nearly 100 years for the necessary developments in technology and engineering genius before Bristol's new bridge could be built.

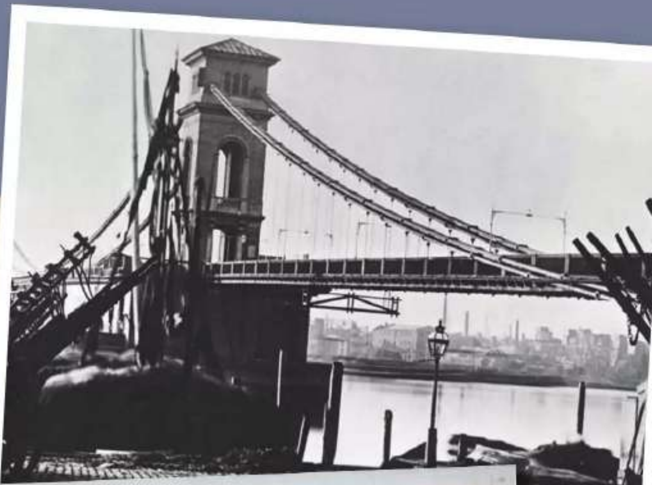
Clifton was rapidly growing into a fashionable retreat for the Georgian elite, so it was decided that connecting this part of Bristol with North Somerset over the river would be a good choice. A design was put forward in 1793 by the aptly named architect William Bridges but the French Revolutionary Wars saw this idea shelved. In 1811, Sarah Guppy became the first woman to patent an

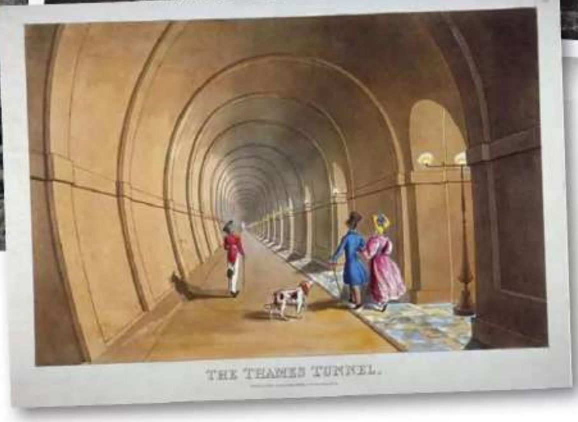


The mastermind behind the Clifton Suspension Bridge, Brunel is seen here with the chains of his steamship the SS Great Eastern



Part of an early design for the Clifton Suspension Bridge by Brunel




THE THAMES TUNNEL.

> "This was to be Brunel's first major commission, a work he would describe as 'my first child, my darling'"

idea for a bridge – she envisaged a bridge with chains rather than arches, but included little detail as to how it would be built and the idea was never attempted. But Guppy's son, Thomas, however, would later become an engineer who would work with Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

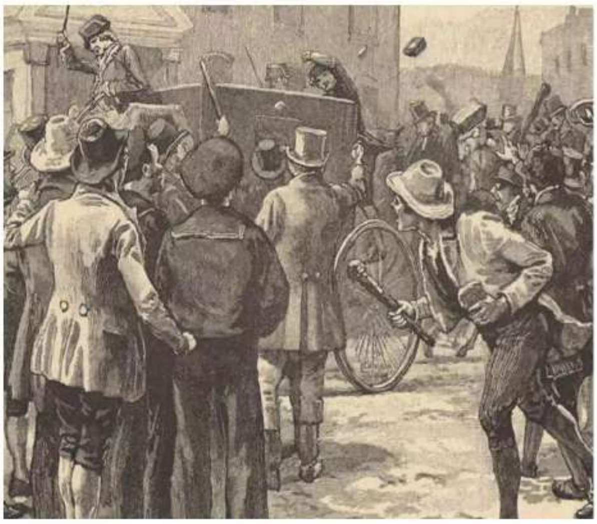
By 1829, Vick's investment had reached £8,000 and thoughts turned towards the creation of a stone bridge. After it was realised that such a structure would cost more than ten times that amount, permission to change Vick's bequest to a cheaper, iron suspension bridge, with tolls to cover its cost and maintenance, was granted by parliament.

A competition to design the bridge, offering a prize of 100 guineas, was announced on 1 October 1829, with Scottish engineer Thomas Telford as the judge. Telford rejected all of the final entries, and was invited by the bridge committee to submit his own idea. Telford's design – a three-span bridge held aloft by Gothic towers – received little public support, so a second competition was held the following year.

Twenty-four-year-old Isambard Kingdom Brunel was desperate to provide the winning design. Brunel's father, Marc Isambard Brunel, was also an engineer, and the father and son duo had helped create the world's first tunnel underneath a navigable river.

It was while recuperating from an accident during the tunnel's construction that the young Brunel heard about the first competition for Bristol's new bridge – which he had unsuccessfully entered. Undaunted, he submitted four ideas for the second competition. One of these, comprised of two Egyptian-style towers supporting the chains of the bridge, was at first awarded second place, but the design's cost-effectiveness and popularity with the public enabled Brunel to persuade the judges to change their minds and declare him the winner.

This was to be Brunel's first major commission, a work he would describe as "my first child, my darling". It's believed Brunel's father, Marc, gave his son some engineering advice, which he promptly ignored. Marc's idea would have seen the bridge be supported by a 300ft Chinese pagoda in the middle of it, not believing that his son's design would work.



The riots of 1831 saw unrest break out in Nottingham and Derby as well as Bristol

TOP RIGHT: **London's Hungerford Suspension Bridge was demolished in favour of a new railway bridge and its chains sent to Bristol**

ABOVE: **The Thames Tunnel opened in 1843 as a foot tunnel but later became used as a railway tunnel**

WORK BEGINS... AND ENDS

Work officially began in late June 1831, with the dynamiting of both sides of the gorge, but just four months later, the Bristol Riots would halt construction. These uprisings were caused by the House of Lords' rejection of a Reform Bill that would have given more people the vote – only around five per cent of the British population could vote at the time.

Anti-reform judge and MP for Boroughbridge in Yorkshire Charles Wetherell had wrongly declared that Bristol was against the Bill and when he visited the city in October 1831, two days of full-scale riots broke out. Brunel himself served as a special constable to try and keep the peace. The unrest saw business confidence in the city fall and subsequently bridge construction ceased. Work started up again in 1836, but investment was still low.

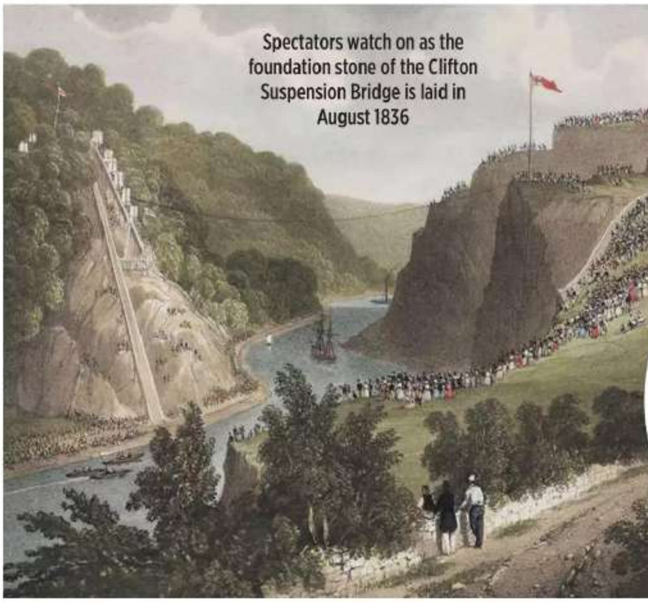
By 1843, disagreements and financial difficulties saw the project shelved again, leaving it unfinished for decades. Some of the bridge's ironwork was sold off and used to create Brunel's Royal Albert Bridge between Plymouth and Saltash in 1851.

Undeterred by the failure to get the Bristol bridge project off the ground, Brunel went on to become one of the most famed engineers of the Victorian era. He modernised Bristol's docks, was the mastermind behind the Great Western Railway network, as well as steamships such as the SS *Great Britain*, designed to travel between Bristol and New York.

Brunel would not live to see the Clifton Suspension Bridge completed. After his death in 1859, his former colleagues at the Institution of Civil Engineers decided that completing the bridge would be ▶

THIS MONTH... 1864

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY



Spectators watch on as the foundation stone of the Clifton Suspension Bridge is laid in August 1836

INSET: **Sir John Hawkshaw was one of the bridge's final designers**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Brave workers repaint the bridge during the 1930s**

◀ the perfect memorial to him. In 1860, the Brunel-designed Hungerford Suspension Bridge in London was demolished, and its chains purchased for the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Engineers William Henry Barlow and John Hawkshaw created a new design, based on Brunel's original, but with three chains rather than two and a larger deck, and work began again in 1862. Wire ropes and planks made up a temporary bridge, which was used to transport each link to make up the chains that would be suspended between the two stone towers. It's believed that Brunel had calculated the perfect minimal weight that was needed to maintain the maximum strength of the chains, and 4,200 links were used in their creation. Work then commenced on the road and footways, and 500 tons of local quarried stone was thrown onto the bridge to test its load. Despite the dangerous work, performed at dizzying heights, only two deaths were reported during the bridge's construction.

The ironwork was painted brown and the links gilded, but the day before its grand opening, one of the towers was still without its iron cap and wire ropes were still being used as temporary railings. But open it would.

On 8 December, a military display marched through the city and early risers gathered on Clifton Down to get a good view of the bridge. Shooting galleries and entertainment stalls did a roaring trade. Ships filled the docks as everyone tried to get the best view. Flags and flowers decorated the approach to the bridge, which even boasted its own motto, carved on the base of one of its towers: *Suspensa Vix via fit*, which roughly translates to 'the road becomes barely suspended'.

More than 150,000 people packed the streets for the event. The mayor and other city officials joined the processions, alongside those who had funded and built the bridge. Together, they made the first official return crossing, and the bridge was declared officially open from the following morning for foot traffic. The following day, 21-year-old Mary Griffiths became the first member of the public to cross the bridge. Paying the one penny toll, she raced a man to Leigh Woods.

The illumination of the bridge was almost as highly anticipated as its opening. The two towers had electric lights on the top of them, with lime lights at their base and magnesium lights spaced along the roadway; a firework was set off to illuminate the bridge for those observing from the city below. The brightness of the

The Clifton Suspension Bridge is a popular spot in Bristol for photo opportunities and tourists

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1

DID YOU KNOW?

HANGING AROUND

Brunel created a 'suspended traveller' – a basket car on wheels which hung from an iron bar – so that workmen could move across the bridge during construction.

bridge's own lights was hit and miss – a far cry from the hundreds of LED lights that ensure the structure can be seen for miles around today.

DEATH-DEFYING ACTS

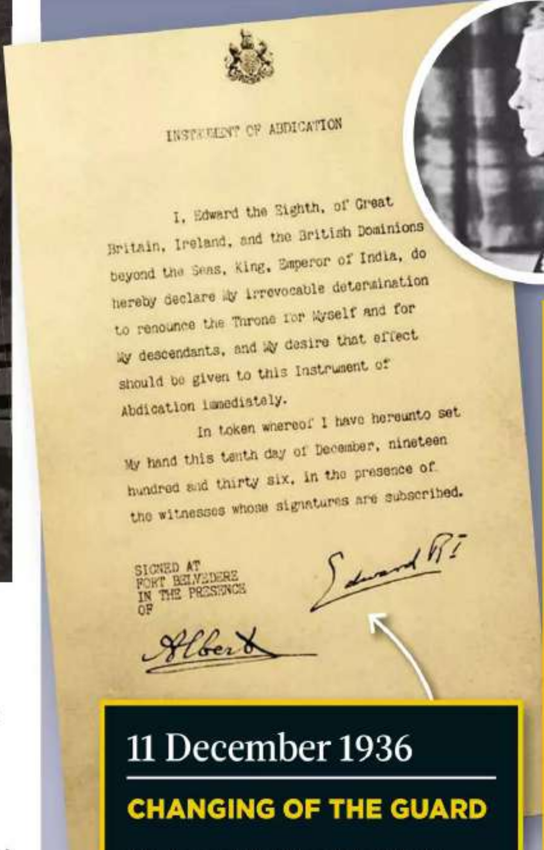
Since its creation, the bridge has seen many extraordinary events – planned and unplanned. In 1885, a young Bristol woman called Sarah Ann Henley attempted to take her own life by jumping off the bridge. The heavy winds made her skirt act as a parachute and she was blown towards the riverbank rather than the water. Miraculously, she survived with no broken bones, just severe shock, and went on to live a long life, dying at the age of 85.

As the River Avon leaves Bristol and heads towards the Severn Estuary, it takes many twists and turns making an approach to the bridge very tricky by air. Nevertheless, there are many stories of daredevil pilots flying underneath the bridge to show off their skills. In July 1927, a Bristol Fighter was flown beneath the bridge by RAF Pilot FG Wayman after it was betted that he couldn't do it. He managed the feat but was severely reprimanded afterwards. As planes became faster, these stunts became more deadly. In 1957, a Flying Officer was killed instantly after crashing into Leigh Woods while attempting the act in a Vampire Jet, and in 1979 the bridge became the site of the world's first bungee jump.

Originally made for pedestrians and horse-drawn carriages and carts, today the bridge sees an estimated four million vehicles cross it every year. The Clifton Suspension Bridge is now a Grade I listed monument.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN DECEMBER THROUGHOUT HISTORY



INSTRUMENT OF ABDICATION

I, Edward the Eighth, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for Myself and for My descendants, and My desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of Abdication immediately.

In token whereof I have hereunto set My hand this tenth day of December, nineteen hundred and thirty six, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed.

SIGNED AT
FORT BELVEDERE
IN THE PRESENCE
OF

Edward RI

Albert

11 December 1936

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The stunned British public listen to their radios in disbelief as Edward VIII announces his decision to abdicate the throne. King for just 326 days, Edward passed the crown to his brother, George VI, so that he could marry Wallis Simpson. As head of the Church of England, it was not thought appropriate for Edward to marry a divorcee, and attempts to find a solution to this quandary failed. Edward and Wallis left for France, and had little to do with the royal family after this.

29 December 1170

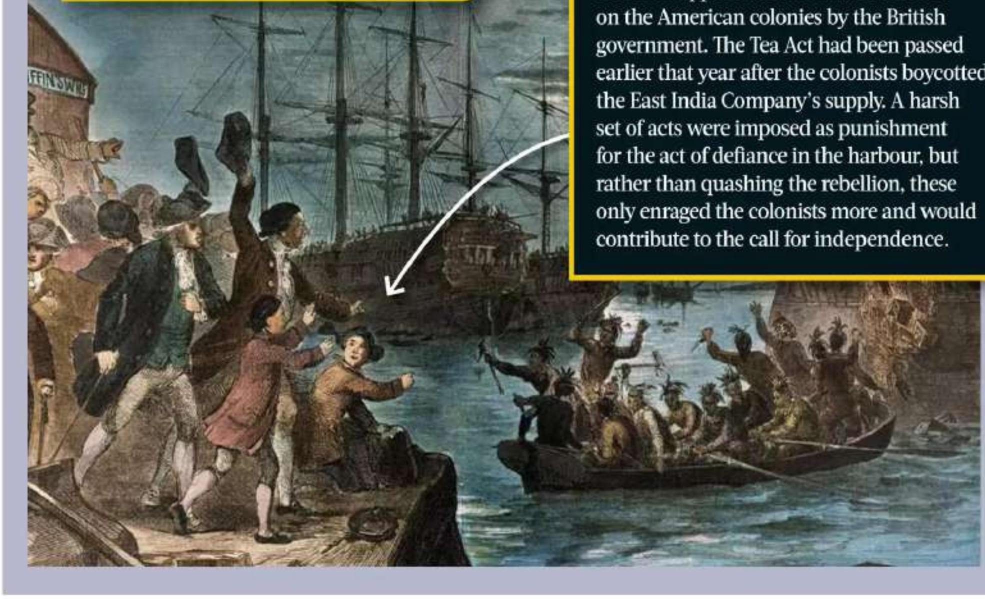
UNHOLY ACT

A gruesome murder shocks medieval Christendom when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket, is murdered in front of the cathedral's high altar. Once close friends, Becket and Henry II had come to blows in recent years over whether the Church was above the law. Becket spent six years in exile and, on his return to England, excommunicated some of his archbishops. Enraged, Henry uttered the infamous words: "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!" and four of his knights took his words as an order. The violent death of his old friend horrified Henry, while Becket became a martyr. Canterbury Cathedral is now one of the most important pilgrimage sites in England.

16 December 1773

A STORM BREWS

Boston Harbour became a powder keg of revolt when 342 chests of tea were thrown into it by a group of radical colonists opposed to the taxation forced on the American colonies by the British government. The Tea Act had been passed earlier that year after the colonists boycotted the East India Company's supply. A harsh set of acts were imposed as punishment for the act of defiance in the harbour, but rather than quashing the rebellion, these only enraged the colonists more and would contribute to the call for independence.



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IN A NUTSHELL
YOUR BRIEF EXPLAINER TO HISTORY'S HOT TOPICS

The Holocaust

Words: Rhiannon Davies

WHAT WAS THE HOLOCAUST?

The Holocaust was the systematic killing of European Jews who lived in areas that were controlled by Nazi Germany in World War II, as well as the persecution and murder of other groups of people. Millions of Jews lost their lives in purpose-built extermination camps and concentration camps; more than a million were murdered by the *Einsatzgruppen* (mobile killing units); while the squalid ghettos claimed the lives of thousands more.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED?

No exact figure of how many people died in the Holocaust exists, though it is estimated that approximately six million Jews were killed by Nazi Germany and collaborators of the regime during the Holocaust, as Hitler was determined to expunge the world of all Jews, whom he viewed as "sub-human".

The Nazis also persecuted other groups of people either because they were also seen to be racially inferior or for other reasons, such as their sexual orientation. Between 200,000 and 500,000 Roma and Sinti (pejoratively called 'gypsies') were killed during the Holocaust, along with millions of Slavs in the Soviet Union and Poland, and up to 250,000 disabled people. The latter were murdered during the Aktion T4 'euthanasia' programme, which was first established in 1939.

Thousands of homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, communists and socialists – as well as anyone who outwardly opposed Hitler's government – were also murdered.

WHEN DID THE HOLOCAUST BEGIN?

The start of the Holocaust is tied to the outbreak of World War II. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland and forcibly took control of around 1.7 million Polish Jews. And, as the Nazis swept across Europe, more and more Jews found themselves under Hitler's influence. As a temporary measure, Jews were forced into walled-off sections of cities, known as ghettos, until the Nazis could decide what to do with them permanently.

Jews in the Warsaw ghetto are arrested after an uprising in 1943. Conditions were terrible

> "Death camps were designed specifically to murder prisoners, often as soon as they arrived"

These ghettos were cramped, squalid places that heaved with misery. The Warsaw Ghetto – the biggest of the 400 ghettos that dotted German-occupied Poland – saw 30 per cent of the city's population herded into a measly 2.4 per cent of the city's land. Disease and malnutrition were rife, with access to food or medicine becoming a distant memory for the ghettos' inhabitants, and people died in their thousands.

The *Einsatzgruppen* 'task forces' targeted people the Nazi regime considered 'political enemies'

WHO WERE THE EINSATZGRUPPEN AND WHAT THEY DO?

The *Einsatzgruppen* were mobile killing units that were tasked with murdering Germany's 'political enemies' during the 1939 invasion of Poland and the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union. In Poland, they were instructed to target Roman Catholic clergymen, Polish nationalists and Jews. By December 1939, 50,000 Poles had died at their hands. These calculated acts of violence marked the moment when the Nazis began systematically murdering Jews.

In the Soviet Union, these units were tasked with rounding up Jews and Soviet officials, marching them to isolated ▶

GETTY IMAGES X2

◄ locations, and turning their guns on them. It's believed they murdered approximately 1.5 million Jewish people.

WHAT WAS THE 'FINAL SOLUTION'?

The "final solution to the Jewish question" was unveiled by Reinhard Heydrich (who was Heinrich Himmler's chief lieutenant in the SS) on 20 January 1942 at the Wannsee Conference. Fourteen top Nazis gathered at a villa in Wannsee, a Berlin suburb, to hear Heydrich's plan.

The previous "solution" to the Jewish "problem" that the Nazis had favoured – deporting every European Jew to the island of Madagascar – was deemed unfeasible. Instead, Heydrich proposed "the evacuation of the Jews to the east". Everyone around the table knew what this meant: the Jews would be transported to death camps. The systematic murder of Jews was about to reach its height.

WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEATH CAMPS AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS, AND HOW MANY CAMPS WERE THERE?

Death camps, or extermination camps, were designed specifically to murder prisoners, often as soon as they arrived. The first to be operational – Chelmno, in Poland – killed people in mobile gas vans. Others, such as Treblinka, had permanent gas chambers in which the prisoners were murdered.

There were four other death camps: Belzec, Sobibor, Majdanek and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Apart from Sobibor and Chelmno, all these sites also had work or concentration camps. Auschwitz II-Birkenau was the regime's largest death camp, and as many as 12,000 prisoners could be put through the gas chambers and burned in the crematoria every day.

But not every prisoner at Auschwitz was put to death straight away. During the *Selektion* process, those who were deemed fit to work were taken to the site's 'main camp': the concentration camp Auschwitz I. Out of the thousands of concentration camps that littered German-occupied Europe, Auschwitz I was the largest – and deadliest.

Although concentration camps were not designed to immediately murder prisoners, being sent to one was often a death sentence in itself. The Nazis dubbed the forced labour that took place at these camps "extermination through work". At Auschwitz I, prisoners received little food – a watery slop of rotten vegetables and meat was a common meal – slept in slum-like barracks and were worked well past the point of exhaustion. Some toiled in the camp's kitchens or shaved prisoners' heads. Others worked outside the camp under armed guard, assembling weaponry in German factories. If they didn't die at Auschwitz I, when they were deemed too frail to continue working, prisoners were condemned to Birkenau. At least 1.1 million people never made it out of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

WHO WAS JOSEF MENGELE, AND WHY WAS HE CALLED THE 'ANGEL OF DEATH'?

Josef Mengele was a doctor at Auschwitz who earned his macabre nickname for the sickening medical experiments he performed on the camp's prisoners. He deliberately sought out twins, and those with unusual physical characteristics. Prisoners with dwarfism, a club foot or two different eye colours were taken away to be experimented on – to be electrocuted, perhaps, or else have chemicals injected into their eyeballs in an attempt to change their eye colour.

After the war ended, Mengele evaded capture for decades and remained in hiding until his death in 1979 – having never answered for his crimes.

WAS THERE ANY RESISTANCE TO THE HOLOCAUST IN GERMANY?

A number of Germans did not agree with the Holocaust and clandestinely helped protect Jews, such as the Nazi business mogul Oskar Schindler, who rescued more than 1,000 Jews. Across German-occupied countries, dissenting individuals secretly provided Jews with food or offered them shelter – one of the most well-known examples being Miep Gies and the others who hid Anne Frank and her family. Jews occasionally actively resisted the Holocaust, too. In 1944, an uprising erupted at Birkenau when the *Sonderkommando* (Special Commando) prisoners who worked in and around the crematoria wrecked a crematorium.

BELOW: **The main gate and unloading ramp of Auschwitz II-Birkenau, the Nazi regime's largest death camp**

BOTTOM: **This industrial looking device – an autoclave – was used to sterilise the clothes worn by inmates after they had been sent to the gas chambers**

LEFT: **When Bergen-Belsen was liberated, huts designed to house about 30 people were found to be crammed with as many as 500**

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X1

Oskar Schindler (*front centre*) saved over 1,000 Jews from death camps by employing them in his factories

Liberated inmates from the Dachau concentration camp raise bottles of wine in celebration. Thousands more inmates died after liberation from disease and hunger

> "A number of post-war trials were staged to bring the Nazis to justice, the most famous being the Nuremberg trials"

HOW AND WHEN DID THE HOLOCAUST END?

In the second half of 1944, the British and American armies were taking swathes of territory back from the Nazis across western Europe, while the Soviets were closing in from the east. As winter set in, SS officials were desperate to cover up the atrocities that had been committed in the camps before the Allies arrived. So, after setting fire to the crematoria and mass graves to obscure evidence of the mass murders, the death marches began.

Prisoners were made to march west, towards the heart of the Reich. More than 50 marches from concentration and death camps took place, with some routes stretching over hundreds of miles. Food and water was scarce, and the prisoners were already starving before the marches began. Any who stopped to catch their breath or who couldn't keep up were shot, and prisoners died in their thousands.

But the Allied forces kept coming, and in 1945 the Holocaust came to an end with the liberation of the camps. On 27 January, Soviet soldiers discovered 7,650 severely ill or malnourished prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau (Majdanek was liberated by the Soviets even earlier, in July 1944). And at Bergen-Belsen, which British troops liberated on 15 April, they found thousands of starving prisoners, many of whom were suffering from typhus. They were so unwell that 28,000 died after being liberated, and the whole camp was set alight to stop the spread of disease.

HOW MANY PEOPLE SURVIVED?

Some 6 million Jews were murdered by the Nazis, and the approximately 3.5 million Jews who survived found their lives were completely changed. Many had lost family members or couldn't return to their homes. Immediately after the war, many moved to displaced-person camps, and in the years afterwards, a large number permanently left their homelands, moving to Israel, the US, Canada and Australia.

WHEN DID THE OUTSIDE WORLD LEARN ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?

The Nazis had tried to keep many details of the Final Solution secret from the world – and their own people. However, the UK, US and Soviet governments knew about the Holocaust as early as December 1942, and prepared war crime indictments against Hitler and other members of Nazi High Command. They did not attempt to close down the camps at this time, though, preferring to focus on securing victory first.

After the war, a number of trials were staged to bring the Nazis to justice, the most famous being the Nuremberg trials. Held in 1945-46, 22 top Nazis were accused of war crimes, crimes against the peace and crimes against humanity. Three were acquitted; seven were handed prison sentences; and 12 were given the death sentence.

The Nazi leaders were indicted of crimes against peace, war crimes and crimes against humanity at the Nuremberg trials

HOW DID GERMANY REACT TO THE HOLOCAUST IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II?

When the Allies carved up Germany after the war, the West Germans were instructed to view the Holocaust very differently to those who lived in the East. Those in the western Federal Republic of Germany, occupied by the US, UK and France, were instilled with a sense of guilt for the crimes of the Holocaust, and Jews were given reparation payments.

The eastern German Democratic Republic, conversely, was told by the Soviets that the Holocaust was the evil product of capitalism, and they should feel no guilt for the part they had played. However, the first action of east Germany's post-communist parliament was to issue an apology to Jews, and in 1999, the German parliament decreed that a Holocaust memorial would be put up in Berlin.

WHAT (AND WHEN) IS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY?

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place every year on 27 January: the day that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. It's a day of remembrance, for those who died during the Holocaust and the millions of others who suffered as a result of Nazi persecution, as well as those who lost their lives in later genocides.

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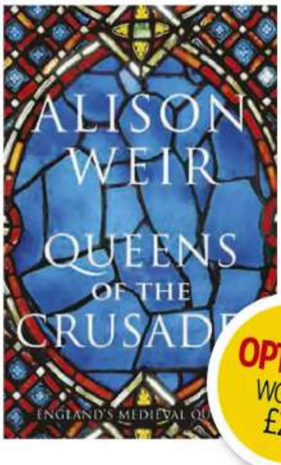
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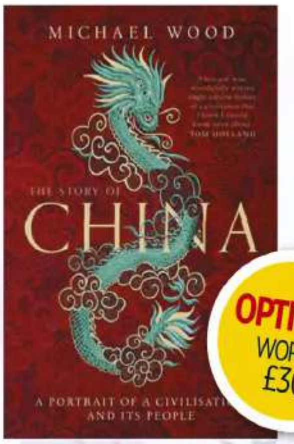
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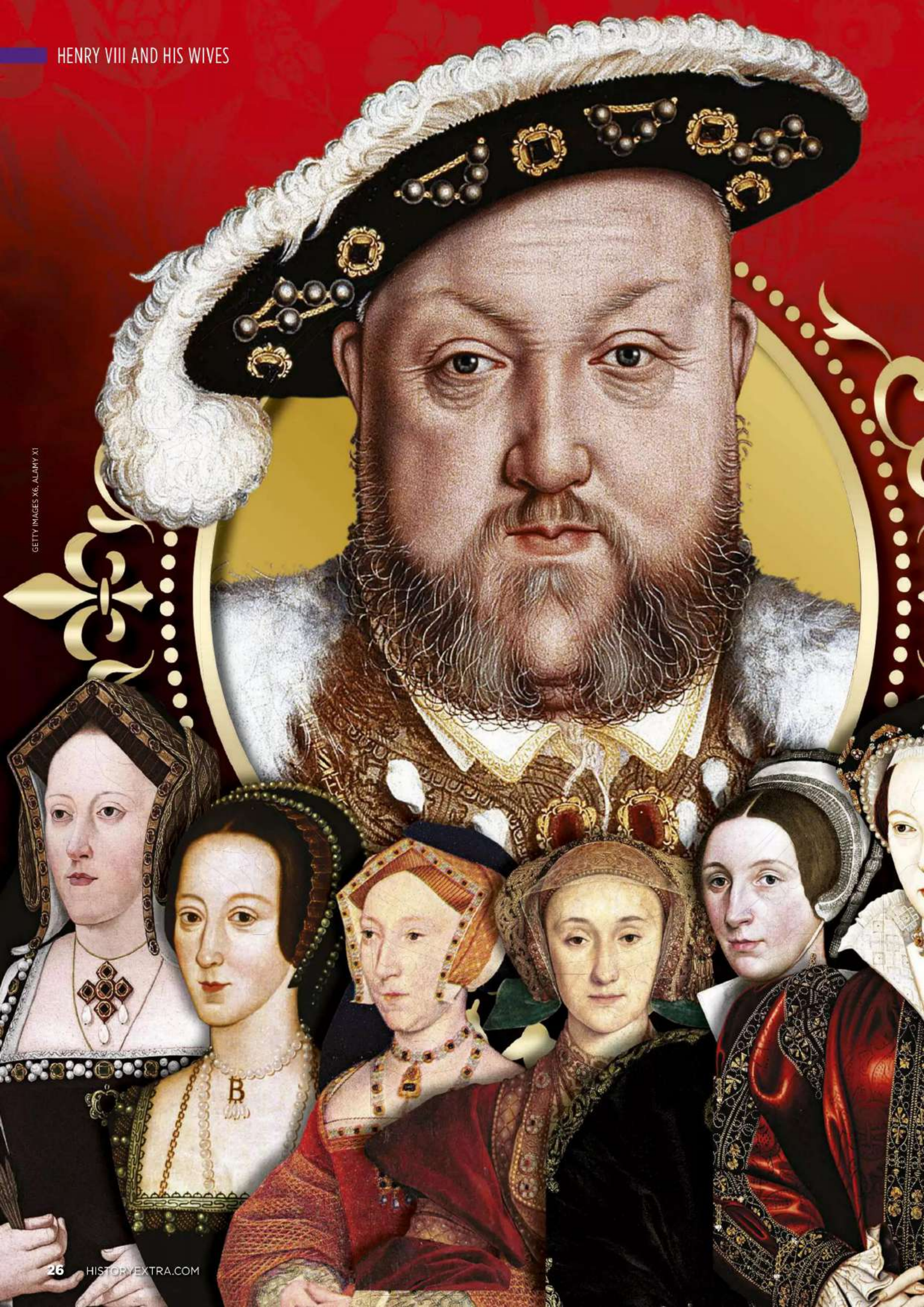

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HENRY VIII AND HIS WIVES

Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived. How King Henry VIII ended each of his marriages is widely known thanks to this handy rhyme, while the stories of his six wives continue to enthrall. The annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon provoked a religious schism, while his second wife, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded on charges of adultery, incest and treason, as Henry tore up the rules in his desperation for a son.

In this essential guide, we get to know the six women who became a Tudor queen, explore their romance – or lack thereof – with Henry, and examine the impact they had on his reign. Over the next pages, we answer the key questions about Henry's tumultuous love life. What if his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, had given him a living son? Did he really love Jane Seymour most of all? What happened to the queens who kept their heads after their marriages ended? Who were the other women who shared Henry's bed, and how many illegitimate children did he have? Turn the page to start the first chapter of this historical romance-story-gone-wrong with a Q&A with historian Tracy Borman...

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TRACY BORMAN is a Tudor historian, author, broadcaster and joint chief curator of Historic Royal Palaces. Her works include: *Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him* and *The Private Lives of the Tudors*.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HENRY VIII AND HIS WIVES

Tracy Borman answers key questions about the Tudor king and the women who married him

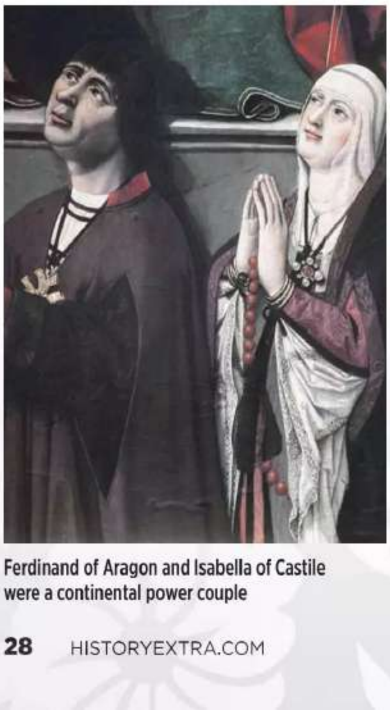
INTERVIEW BY CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

PODCAST

Listen to the full interview with Tracy Borman on a future episode of the History Extra podcast *historyextra.com/podcast*

Q: How happy were the early years of Henry's first marriage, to Catherine of Aragon?

A: I would say it was his happiest marriage, ironically, given what happened. But Catherine and Henry had many happy years together and appeared to be very much in love. Catherine was a sort of damsel in distress – his late brother Arthur's abandoned widow – and Henry saw himself as the chivalrous knight who rescued her. And Catherine absolutely adored him. I think of all his wives, Catherine of Aragon was the one who really fitted Henry's idea of what a queen should be. She was a princess of Spain – the daughter of the royal power couple Ferdinand and Isabella – and so she'd been brought up to be a queen. And she absolutely ticked all the boxes. Of course, sadly, the only box she didn't tick was bearing a surviving son. And that was her downfall.



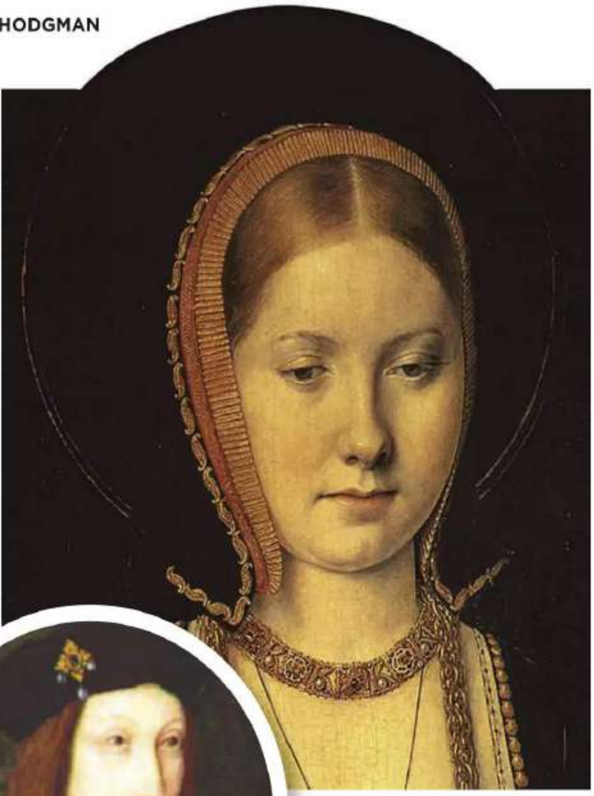
Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile were a continental power couple

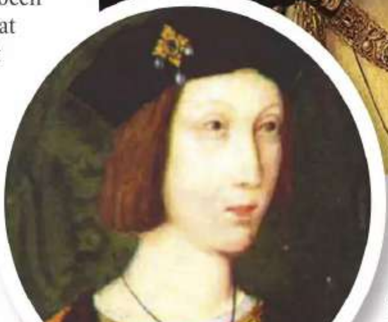
Q: Do you think Henry would have set Catherine aside and married Anne Boleyn if she had borne him a living son?

A: I think Henry would still have been unfaithful, frankly, because kings at that time just were – it was almost expected at the Tudor court. And we know that he had already strayed from the marriage a few times, even before Anne Boleyn appeared on the scene. But it would have just been mistresses; there wouldn't have been any thought of setting Catherine aside and marrying Anne Boleyn if Prince Henry (b.1511) had survived. Anne would have married Henry Percy as she had wanted to all along, and history would have been very different. There wouldn't have been the break with Rome – England might have had some form of Reformation eventually, but I think probably much later in the Tudor period – and Henry would most likely have gone down in history as a likeable, gregarious sort of chap. But that's all.

Q: Was Henry a romantic?

A: Henry loved being in love and was very much embedded in the whole culture of chivalry. Royal marriages were usually more about politics and diplomacy than affection, but Henry wasn't interested unless he could actually love his wife. His chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, underestimated this desire for love when he set up Henry's fourth marriage, to Anne of Cleves, and that's why things went so horribly wrong – Cromwell focused on politics, not passion, despite warnings from Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury. With five of his wives, Henry certainly gave the appearance of being very deeply in love, but I think he also just loved the idea of being in love.





ABOVE: **Henry's older brother Arthur was the first to wed Catherine of Aragon – a match made by Henry VII to secure an alliance with Spain**

TOP: **Catherine of Aragon "ticked all the boxes," says Borman – she had a powerful lineage and had been brought up to be a queen**

Q: How soon did Henry and Anne Boleyn's relationship start to deteriorate after their marriage?

A: Very quickly. They married in January 1533 and Anne went into her confinement ahead of Elizabeth's birth

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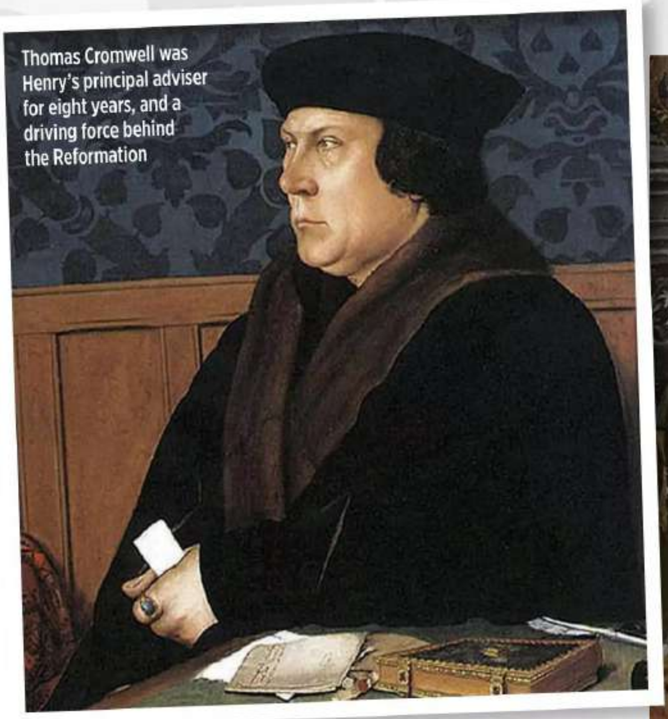
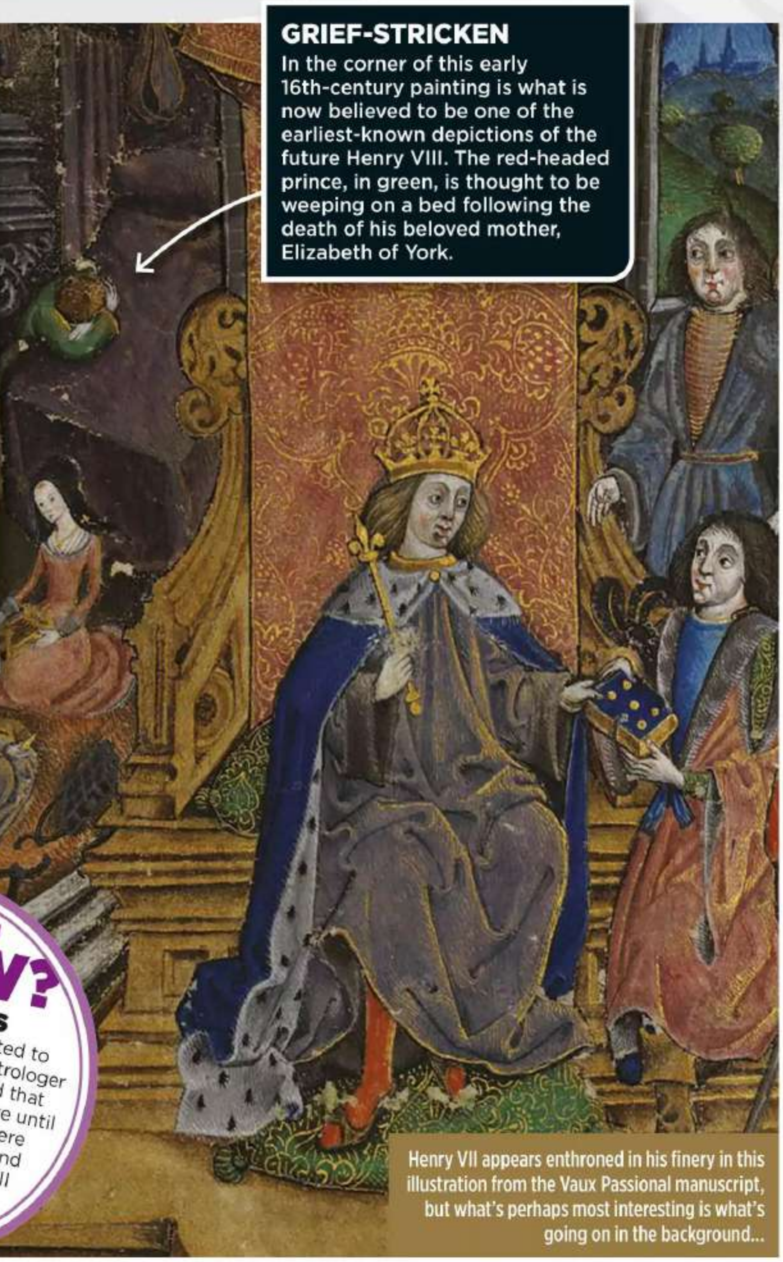


Thomas Cromwell was Henry's principal adviser for eight years, and a driving force behind the Reformation



GRIEF-STRICKEN

In the corner of this early 16th-century painting is what is now believed to be one of the earliest-known depictions of the future Henry VIII. The red-headed prince, in green, is thought to be weeping on a bed following the death of his beloved mother, Elizabeth of York.

Henry VII appears enthroned in his finery in this illustration from the Vaux Passional manuscript, but what's perhaps most interesting is what's going on in the background...

in August the same year; it was while she was waiting to give birth that Anne heard rumours that Henry had been playing around. Unlike Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn was not prepared to turn a blind eye to Henry's infidelities. She had opinions. She was feisty. And this did not sit well with Henry. The type of behaviour he had admired in a mistress he found deeply unappealing in a wife.

I think at heart, Henry was a hunter; he loved the thrill of the chase. And as soon as he had caught his prey, so to speak, it lost its appeal. That was absolutely true of Anne. And then, of course, what compounded the matter was Anne giving birth to a girl.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN THE STARS

In a manuscript presented to Henry VII in 1503, Italian astrologer William Parron predicted that Elizabeth of York would live until she was 80 (she died mere months later, aged 37) and that the future Henry VIII would father many male heirs.

Q: How much influence did Anne exert over Henry?

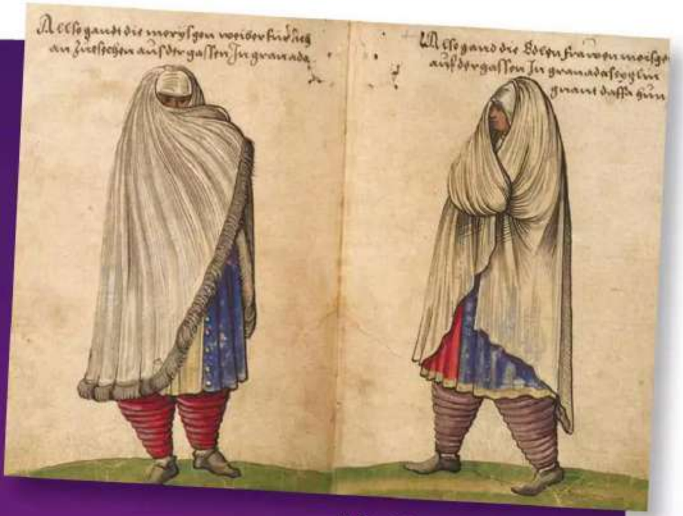
A: Ironically, I would say she had more influence over him as a mistress than as a wife. Anne was a great intellectual with strong views on all sorts of issues, particularly on religion. She was a reformist and I think she steered Henry in the direction of the break with Rome, not just because it served her purpose, but because she was ideologically aligned with the reformers.

Q: Did Henry's relationship with his mother, Elizabeth of York, influence his later romantic relationships?

A: Definitely. They say you should never marry a man who adores his mother because you'll never live up to her, and that was certainly true with Henry. He worshipped his mother and she had a great influence on him growing up, spending a lot of time with Henry in the royal nursery at Eltham Palace. There is even evidence to suggest it was she who taught him to read and write.

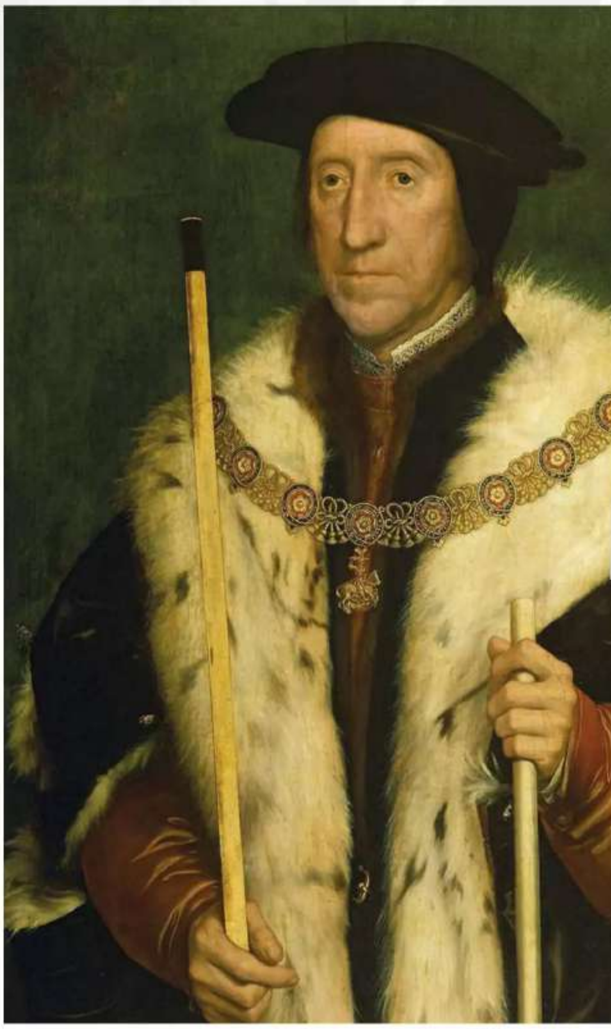
THE WOMAN WITH ALL THE ANSWERS?

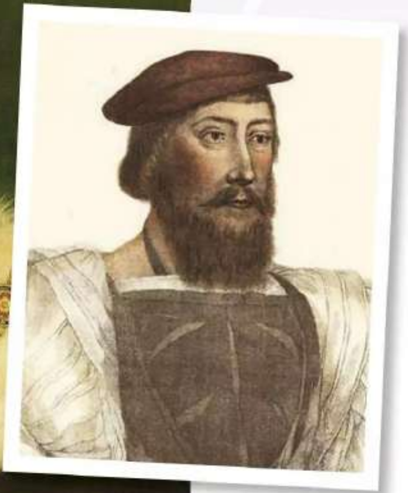
The Moorish slave whose loyalty to the Spanish queen lasted a lifetime



A Moorish woman in Granada, from Christoph Weiditz's 1530s work *Trachtenbuch*

When Catherine of Aragon landed in Plymouth in 1501, she brought with her a multicultural and multiracial entourage of men and women. Among them was Catalina, a young Iberian Moor from Granada who, according to records, served Catherine as a slave and royal bedmaker. With such privileged access to the Queen, it is almost certain that Catalina, whose duty it was to make and change the Queen's bed, would have known the truth as to whether her royal mistress and Prince Arthur did indeed consummate their marriage. In fact, so important could Catalina's testimony have been to resolving the King's 'Great Matter' that, when Catalina returned to Spain having served the queen for some 26 years, she was pursued by Spanish agents who sought to elicit the truth from her. But the loyal Catalina, it seems, took the secrets of the royal bedchamber to the grave with her.





ABOVE: **Thomas Boleyn was not only the father of Henry's second wife; he developed a close relationship with the King in his own right**

LEFT: **Thomas Howard was uncle to two of Henry's queens, but he failed to get close to the King**

"Katherine Parr's family fared better during the reign of Elizabeth I, who adored her last stepmother"

◀ Elizabeth of York's death, when Henry was just 11, had a devastating impact on him – there's a beautiful and terribly sad illustration of the time, which shows a young Henry weeping onto his mother's empty bed (*see image on page 29*). So, I do think her death influenced his later relationships – no wife could ever live up to her.

Q: Which of the wives' families gained the most through their proximity to the King?

A: The Howards were an incredibly powerful family – Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, was uncle to both Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. So, of course, he reaped the benefits of that. Thomas Howard was a very powerful nobleman, a real force to be reckoned with at court, but on a personal level, Henry didn't like him. He was far more attuned, I think, to the Boleyns. He got on very well with Anne's father, Thomas, and also with her brother, George, whom he appointed to serve him in private – a real sign that Henry liked somebody and not a privilege extended to Thomas Howard. I think Henry identified with the Seymours publicly because Jane was the wife who gave him a living son. And so he showed great honour towards her brothers, Edward and Thomas. But it wasn't as close as the relationship he'd had with the Boleyns. Katherine Parr's family actually fared better during the reign of Elizabeth I, who adored her last stepmother.

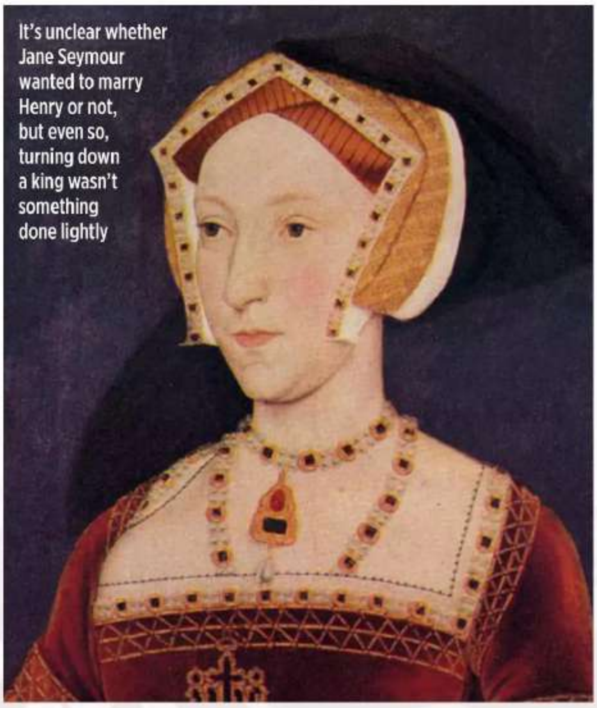
Q: Why did Jane Seymour marry Henry knowing what had happened to her predecessors?

A: Unlike Anne Boleyn, we don't know what Jane felt. All we really know is that her family manoeuvred her into the position of queen, just as the Boleyns had with Anne. But with Anne, you get a sense that she was more of an active player in proceedings; with Jane it's unclear. We don't know whether she wanted to marry Henry or if she had another secret love – there is a hint of a betrothal that almost happened with a gentleman at court, but nothing else. But you can imagine that she didn't have any choice in marrying the King. And you can also imagine the fear she must have experienced knowing what had happened to her predecessors. Catherine of Aragon wasn't executed, but she died miserable, alone and rejected. And of course, Anne Boleyn's fate was a real lesson for Jane in what not to do. And that must have been terrifying. The weight of expectation on Jane's shoulders must have been immense.

Besides which, how could you refuse the king of England without causing gross offence and ruining your family? Katherine Parr, wife number six, absolutely didn't want to marry Henry because she was in love with Thomas Seymour and had already had two marriages of convenience. But you did not defy the king, particularly a king like Henry VIII.

Q: Should Henry have given Anne of Cleves more of a chance?

A: I think Henry should have been less hasty in his rejection of Anne of Cleves, because she actually had the makings of an ideal wife. In fact, after the marriage had been dissolved, Henry actually grew to really like her and appreciate her qualities. Anne of Cleves was liked and admired by everyone who met her, and although she lacked English courtly refinements, she wasn't ▶



It's unclear whether Jane Seymour wanted to marry Henry or not, but even so, turning down a king wasn't something done lightly

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HENRY AND HIS WIVES IN NUMBERS

200,000 DUCATS

Catherine of Aragon's dowry on her marriage to Prince Arthur

1,600

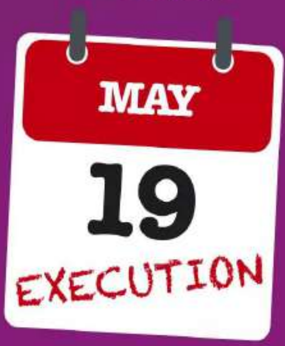
The number of meals served daily by the kitchens at Hampton Court Palace when the King and court were in residence

3

The number of books written by Henry's final wife, Katherine Parr, during their marriage

11

The number of days between Anne Boleyn's execution and Henry's marriage to wife number three, Jane Seymour



32 YEARS

The possible age difference between Henry VIII and Catherine Howard

2

The number of wives who were crowned: Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn

5

The number of months pregnant Anne Boleyn was at her coronation in June 1533

£500

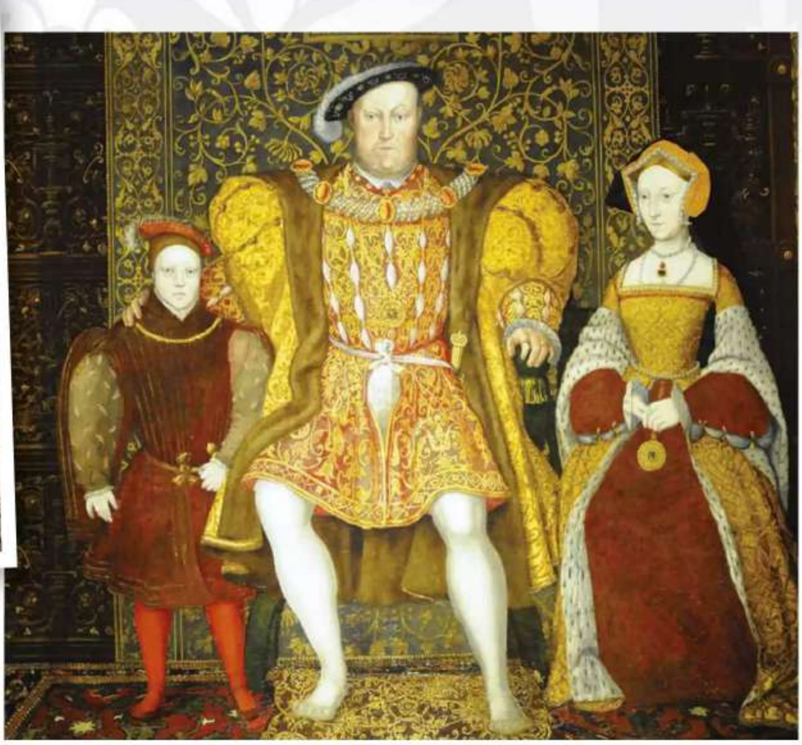
The amount, per year, granted to Anne of Cleves by the King after the annulment of their marriage

17

Henry's age when he became king, in 1509

24 YEARS

The approximate length of time Catherine of Aragon remained married to Henry – longer than all of the King's other marriages combined



Henry VIII with third wife Jane Seymour and the son he had sought for so long – the future Edward VI

◀ lacking in intellect. She had very lively conversation and, after the annulment, she and Henry got on so well that it was actually rumoured the King was thinking of remarrying her. If he'd got over the fact that she wasn't his ideal image of a wife and given it a bit more time, I actually think Anne of Cleves would have made Henry very happy.

Q: How did Henry's children get on with their stepmothers?

A: Anne of Cleves was an absolutely wonderful stepmother, particularly to Elizabeth, who visited her at Hever Castle, one of the palaces she was granted after the annulment. She was a huge influence on Elizabeth, teaching her the value of pragmatism over principle – Anne of Cleves had given Henry what he wanted and done very well out of it. Jane Seymour was very close to Mary because Jane had been very loyal to Catherine of Aragon, Mary's mother. But I don't think there was much of a relationship between Jane Seymour and Elizabeth.

I think the biggest impact Catherine Howard had on Elizabeth was her execution. In fact, it was when Elizabeth was eight years old, around the time of Catherine's execution, that she first vowed she would never marry. It was a huge moment in her childhood, knowing that her stepmother had been beheaded, as her own mother had been.

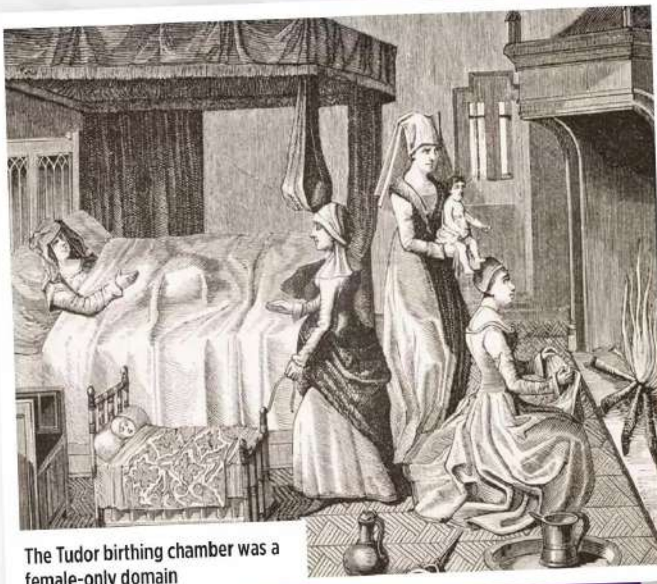
Katherine Parr, really, was the stepmother who had it all in terms of influence, because she managed to get on with all three children, even though by then they were very different in terms of their religious leanings – Edward and Elizabeth being Protestant, Mary being Catholic. But Katherine charmed them all. She paid them all equal attention and she superintended the education of Edward and Elizabeth in particular. She was closest to Elizabeth, but I think it speaks volumes about Katherine Parr that she managed to win over Mary as well, even though Katherine herself was quite radical in religion.

Q: Why did Henry choose to put Catherine Howard to death rather than annul the marriage?

A: Henry could not be seen to forgive adultery because it was a personal affront, an attack on his own masculinity. Adultery in a royal wife was borderline treason because it could alter the succession – if Catherine Howard had fallen pregnant by Thomas Culpeper – the courtier with whom she was having an affair – and claimed the child was the King's, then that would alter the royal succession. And that's treason. Adultery was utterly unforgivable on a personal level for Henry, who hated to be shown to be anything other than a virile, desirable king. In short, adultery in a queen consort could not be overlooked. Henry did actually annul his marriage to Anne Boleyn before she was executed, but her ultimate fate did not change.

Q: Was Henry as cold and merciless as his behaviour often indicates?

A: I've never come across anybody as able to compartmentalise as Henry VIII – his ability to dispatch his wives without



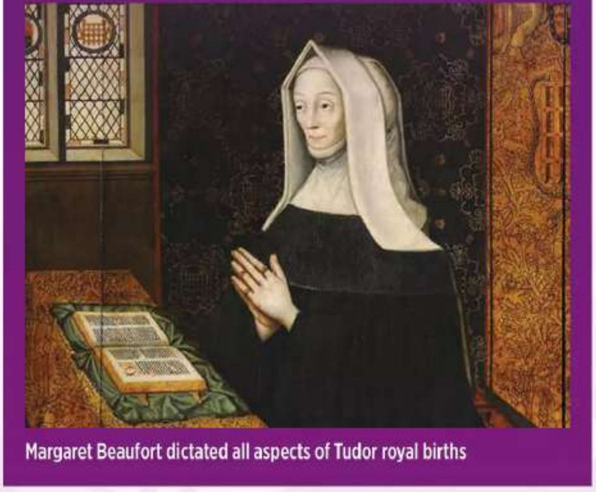
The Tudor birthing chamber was a female-only domain

BORN TO RULE

Popping out a Tudor royal meant adhering to a strict set of rules and traditions

The formidable Margaret Beaufort would today probably be classed as a 'mother-in-law from hell'. Utterly devoted to both her son, Henry VII, and the survival of the Tudor dynasty, in 1487, with her first grandchild on its way, Margaret wrote a 'Book of the Royal Household'. Drawing on centuries of conventions – part-religious, part-medical – this text dictated in minute detail what was required for the successful delivery of a royal heir and would have been used for the births of Henry VIII's children.

Creating a "womb-like" environment for the baby was considered essential, so the entire birthing chamber – "sides, roof, windows and all" – was hung with heavy tapestries and "laid all over with thick carpets". Even the keyholes were stuffed with material. Fresh air and natural light were considered unhealthy for both newborn and mother, and were believed to leave both vulnerable to attacks by evil spirits. Nobody in the all-women chamber was permitted to cross their legs, arms or fingers – in case it made the birth difficult – while mothers-to-be would wear "magic girdles" with pieces of paper inscribed with "charms" to offer protection; the skin of a wild ox would be tied around the thigh in a bid to provide pain relief.



Margaret Beaufort dictated all aspects of Tudor royal births

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MAIN: Henry considered adultery a personal affront on his masculinity, which meant there could only be one fate for Catherine Howard

RIGHT: This headsman's block from the Tower of London is allegedly the one Catherine Howard practised laying her head on, the night before her execution

a thought was almost pathological. But, of course, we don't know what he felt in private. Publicly he appeared to be very good at moving on without a thought – getting betrothed to Jane Seymour the day after Anne Boleyn's execution, for example – but we don't know how he felt or behaved in private.

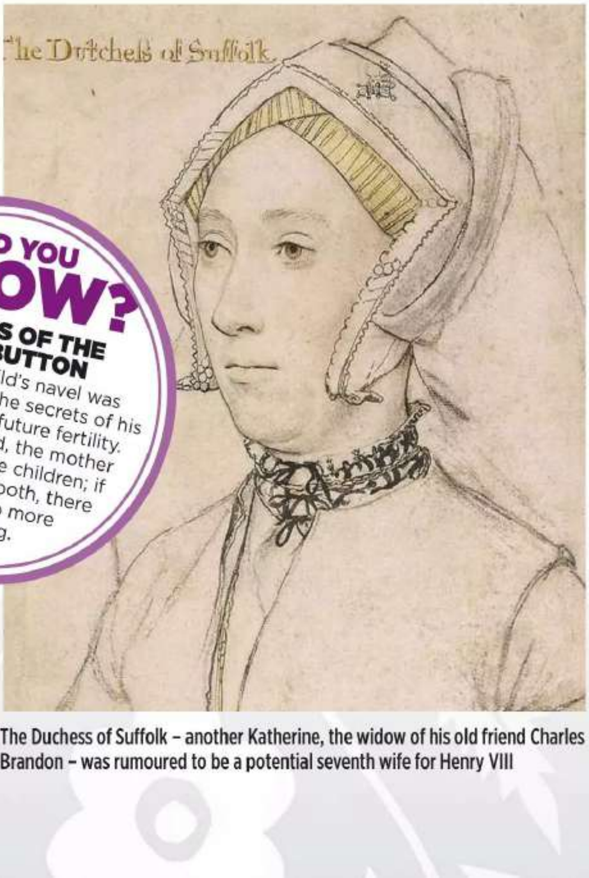
We have a small insight into Henry's private feelings through his reaction to the death of Cardinal Wolsey, his former lord chancellor and trusted friend. When Wolsey failed to get the Pope to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, he was cast aside and, ultimately, was on his way to face charges of treason when he died. In public, Henry appeared not to care at all about the death of his former friend, a man he had been close to for more than 20 years. But we know that when one of Wolsey's servants went to see Henry privately after Wolsey's death, he found the King weeping for the loss of his dear cardinal. So I do think, behind closed doors, Henry might have been a very different, and actually a much more sympathetic, man to the seeming monster we're more familiar with.

DID YOU KNOW?

SECRETS OF THE BELLYBUTTON

A newborn child's navel was believed to hold the secrets of his or her mother's future fertility. If it was wrinkled, the mother would bear more children; if it appeared smooth, there would be no more offspring.

"Behind closed doors, Henry might have been a much more sympathetic man than we're familiar with"


The Dutchess of Suffolk.

The Duchess of Suffolk – another Katherine, the widow of his old friend Charles Brandon – was rumoured to be a potential seventh wife for Henry VIII

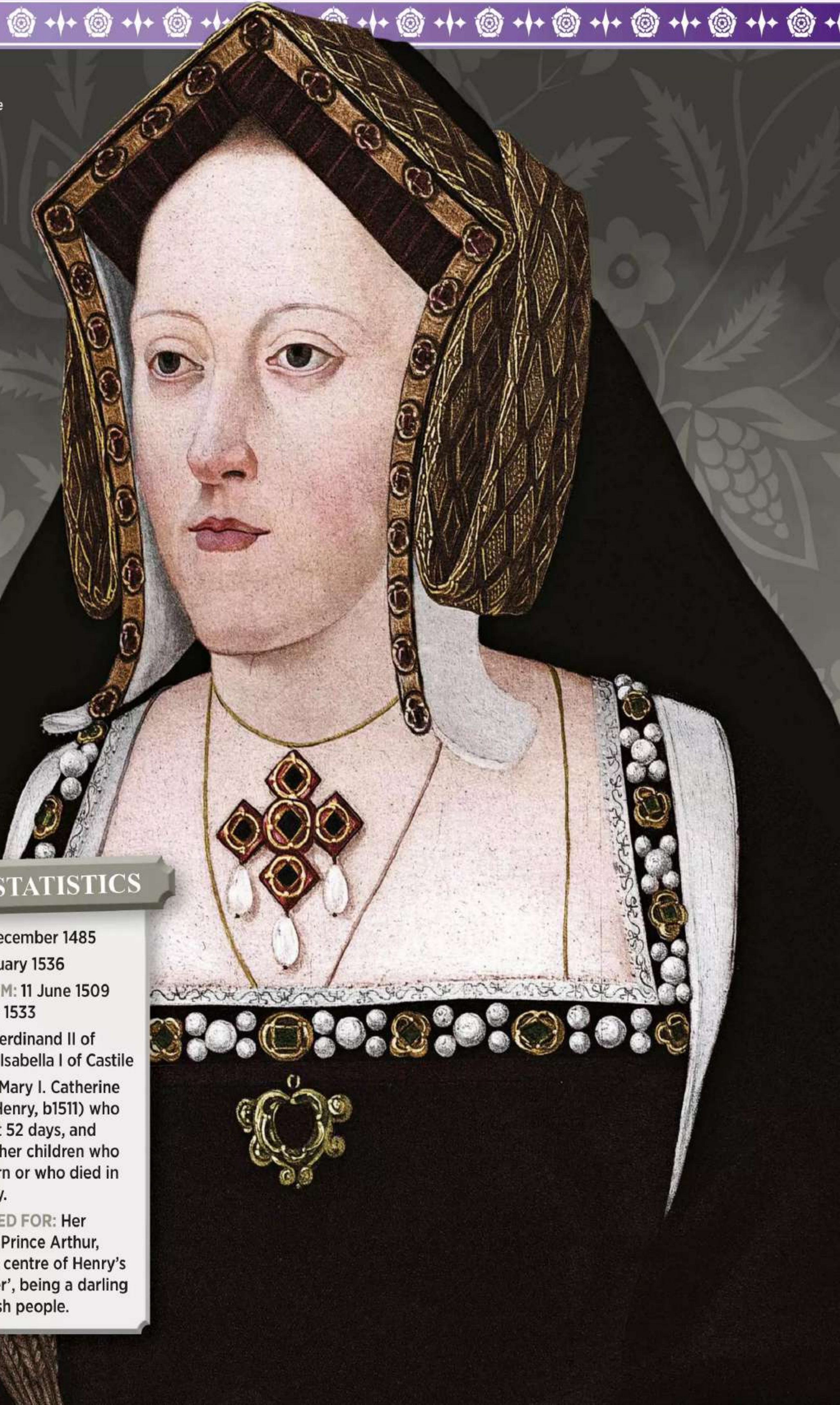
Q: Do you think Henry was planning to take a seventh wife before he died?

A: I don't think there's any compelling evidence for that. Some historians believe Katherine Willoughby, Duchess of Suffolk, was being lined up as a seventh wife, but I don't think so. The only time that we know Henry became seriously upset with Katherine Parr was when her enemies at court cooked up a plot to have her arrested for heresy.

Thankfully, the arrest warrant fell into Katherine's hands before it fell into Henry's and she was able to talk her way out of trouble. But I don't think it was ever serious enough for Henry to consider setting her aside. And also, by that stage, you do get the feeling that Henry is tired of all the drama. He'd been through an awful lot of trouble to get rid of the five wives before Katherine Parr; I think unless she had committed a heinous crime, she was there to stay. ⊙

History**Extra**
Podcast

TRACY BORMAN is a historian, writer, broadcaster and expert on Tudor history. Listen to a longer version of this interview on a future episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast



Catherine asserted that she had never consummated her marriage with Arthur – a factor that would become central to the King's attempts to annul their marriage

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: 16 December 1485

DIED: 7 January 1536

QUEEN FROM: 11 June 1509 until 23 May 1533

PARENTS: Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile

CHILDREN: Mary I. Catherine had a son (Henry, b1511) who lived for just 52 days, and bore four other children who were stillborn or who died in early infancy.

REMEMBERED FOR: Her marriage to Prince Arthur, being at the centre of Henry's 'Great Matter', being a darling of the English people.

CATHERINE OF ARAGON THE 'PRINCIPLED' ONE

Born in Spain in 1485, the devout Catherine of Aragon was Henry VIII's first wife and the mother of his first surviving child – a daughter, Mary

WORDS: RACHEL DINNING

CATHERINE'S EARLY LIFE

Although Catherine of Aragon was the first wife of Henry VIII, she was no stranger to marriage and had previously been wedded (albeit briefly) to the King's older brother, Prince Arthur. This was a political match, made by the Prince's father, Henry VII, who had long recognised that Catherine's parents – Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile – held considerable influence across the continent.

Henry VII knew the value of propaganda in such alliances; Arthur and Catherine's marriage would be lavish and ceremonial, so that their union would be recognised internationally for its significance. The pair were wed on 14 November 1501.

The marriage did not last long. Arthur, who had long been prone to illness, died within five months of the wedding – probably the victim of a lingering illness such as tuberculosis.

Just like that, Catherine's value plummeted. She was reduced from being a future Queen of England to a spare 'Spanish Princess'. It was around this time that she gained the name most familiar to us – Catherine of Aragon.

CATHERINE'S RISE

Catherine was betrothed to Prince Henry soon after, but it was only after Henry VII's death in 1509 and the young prince ascended the throne that plans for a wedding took shape. Since Catherine had been married to his brother, a special dispensation from the Pope was needed for her to wed the 17-year-old, idealistic Henry. But to the new king, Catherine was a worthy prize, both in terms of dowry and her beauty. Catherine and Henry were married for almost 24 years in total – the early years of which, at least, were "loving and happy".

CATHERINE'S FALL

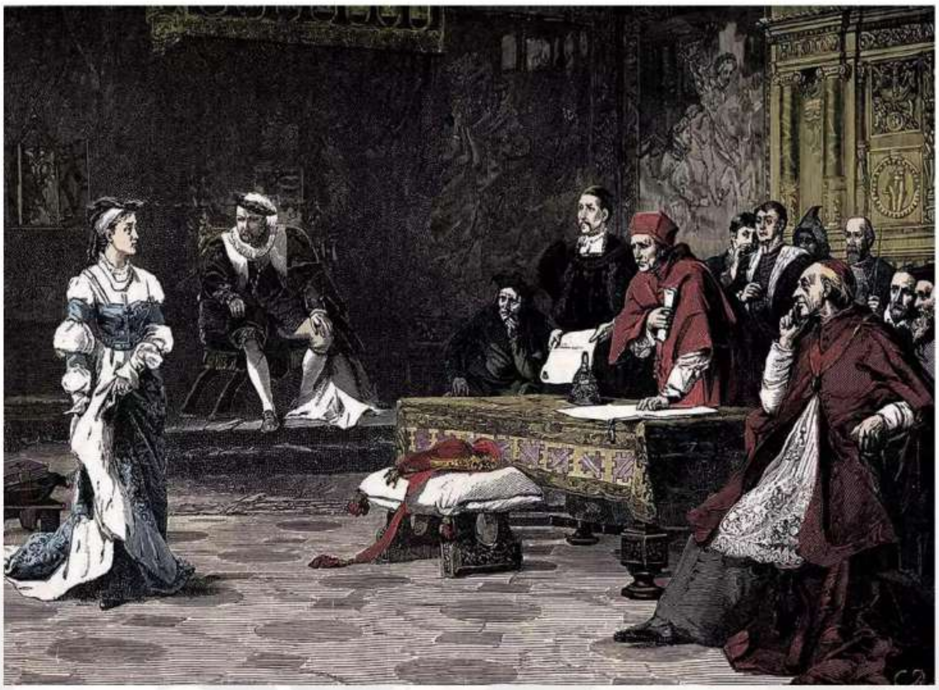
Although Catherine bore the King a daughter, Mary, a healthy son eluded her. Of her other known pregnancies, she suffered a miscarriage and a stillbirth, and on two more occasions bore children who lived a matter of hours.

The closest she came to providing Henry with a male heir was in 1511, when on New Year's Day she delivered a prince. Celebrations ensued in London; bonfires were lit, songs were sung, and wine flowed freely around the capital. But festivities were halted a few weeks later when the king and queen received the devastating news that their son, named for his father, had died.

Ultimately, Catherine was unable to provide Henry with the son he so desperately wanted. This desire for a male heir would become a continual sticking point for Henry in all of his marriages – and was also a reason cited in the Tudor king's desire to end his first marriage.

The annulment of their marriage took place in May 1533, by which time the King had already 'married' his new queen, Anne Boleyn (who had been, incidentally, Catherine's lady-in-waiting). Catherine never accepted the annulment of her marriage, and continued to refer to herself as Henry's wife and queen until her death, in 1536. Those at court, however, and in Catherine's household, were instructed to use the title 'Dowager Princess of Wales' when addressing her. Catherine is buried in Peterborough Abbey.

> "No stranger to marriage, Catherine had previously been wedded (albeit briefly) to Henry VIII's older brother, Prince Arthur"



Catherine of Aragon pleads her case against an annulment in front of Henry VIII and a papal legate

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ANNE BOLEYN THE 'AMBITIOUS' ONE

When she first arrived at court she began turning heads, and soon Anne Boleyn managed the unthinkable – instead of just becoming Henry's mistress, she elevated herself to his queen

WORDS: ELIZABETH NORTON

ANNE'S EARLY LIFE

Anne Boleyn was educated on the continent, before returning to England in 1522 to serve Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

She caused a stir at court, captivating both the heir to the earldom of Northumberland and the poet Sir Thomas Wyatt, who called her 'Fair Brunet'. By 1526, the King was also interested in the dark-haired young woman.

Much of Anne's appeal for Henry lay in her refusal to become his mistress and her promise that she would bear him a son. Wild with frustrated lust, Henry bombarded Anne with letters, professing himself "stricken with the dart of love"; in May 1527, he began his long attempt to secure a papal annulment of his marriage to Catherine.

ANNE'S RISE

Anne was soon queen in all but name. She was now a political figure, instrumental in the fall of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey in 1529. On 1 September 1532, she was created Lady Marquis of Pembroke, giving her sufficient status to accompany Henry on a visit to France the following month.

She fell pregnant shortly afterwards, with the couple marrying in secret on 25 January 1533. But although finally married, Henry still needed to disentangle himself from Catherine of Aragon.

With all efforts to gain an annulment denied, Anne was understandably anti-papal. She brought Simon Fish's anti-clerical pamphlet *A Supplication for the Beggars* to Henry's attention. He put increasing pressure on the clergy, forcing them to accept him as 'Supreme Head of the Church of England', a title he created in 1531.

In early 1533 Thomas Cranmer, a Boleyn family chaplain and the new Archbishop of Canterbury, repudiated his allegiance to the Pope, before annulling Henry's first marriage and crowning Anne. On 7 September 1533, instead of the son she had promised Henry, Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth – the King was bitterly disappointed.

ANNE'S FALL

Within months of their wedding Henry was unfaithful, informing Anne that "she must shut her eyes, and endure as well as more worthy persons, and that she ought to know that it was in his power to humble her again in a moment more than he had exalted her". When Anne miscarried a son shortly after Catherine of Aragon's death in January 1536, he declared ominously that "he would have no more boys by her". In truth, he had already fallen in love with Jane Seymour, and was soon looking to end his marriage.

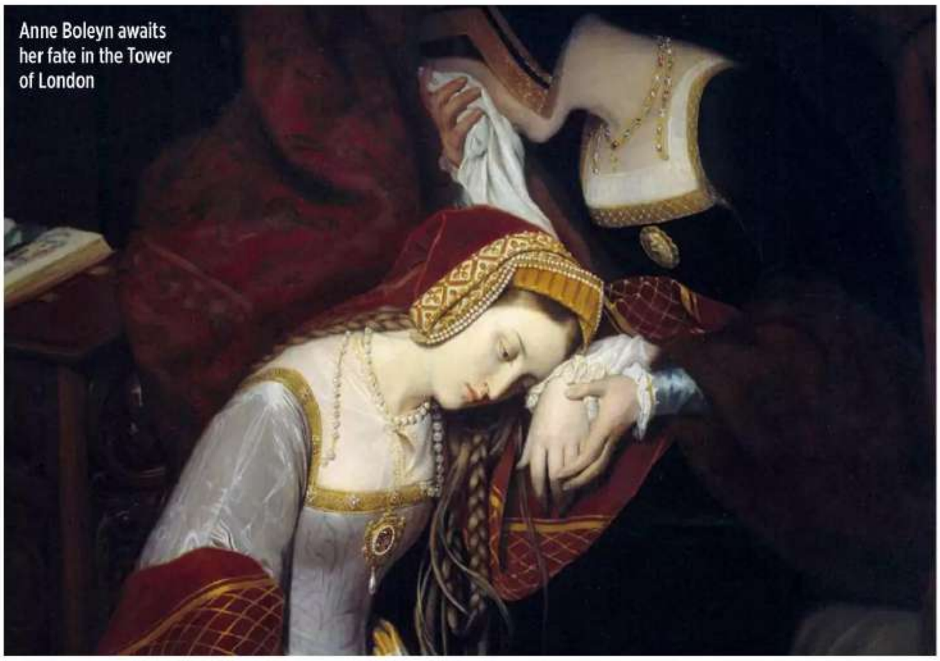
On 30 April 1536, under torture, a musician named Mark Smeaton confessed to a sexual relationship with Anne. Two days later, the Queen was arrested for adultery, incest and conspiring the King's death, and taken to the Tower of London. Anne, her brother, Smeaton and three other men were convicted on trumped-up charges, with the men executed on 17 May. That same day, the royal marriage was annulled.

On 19 May 1536, Anne Boleyn walked to the scaffold. After making a short speech, she knelt as a French swordsman – hired as a small act of mercy by the King – stepped up behind her and severed her head with one blow.

As well as involvement in religious reform, Anne's greatest legacy is her daughter, Elizabeth I, who became one of England's greatest monarchs.

ELIZABETH NORTON is an author and historian. Her most recent book is *The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women* (WW Norton & Company, 2020)

> "Much of Anne's appeal for Henry lay in her refusal to become his mistress and her promise that she would bear him a son"



Anne Boleyn awaits her fate in the Tower of London

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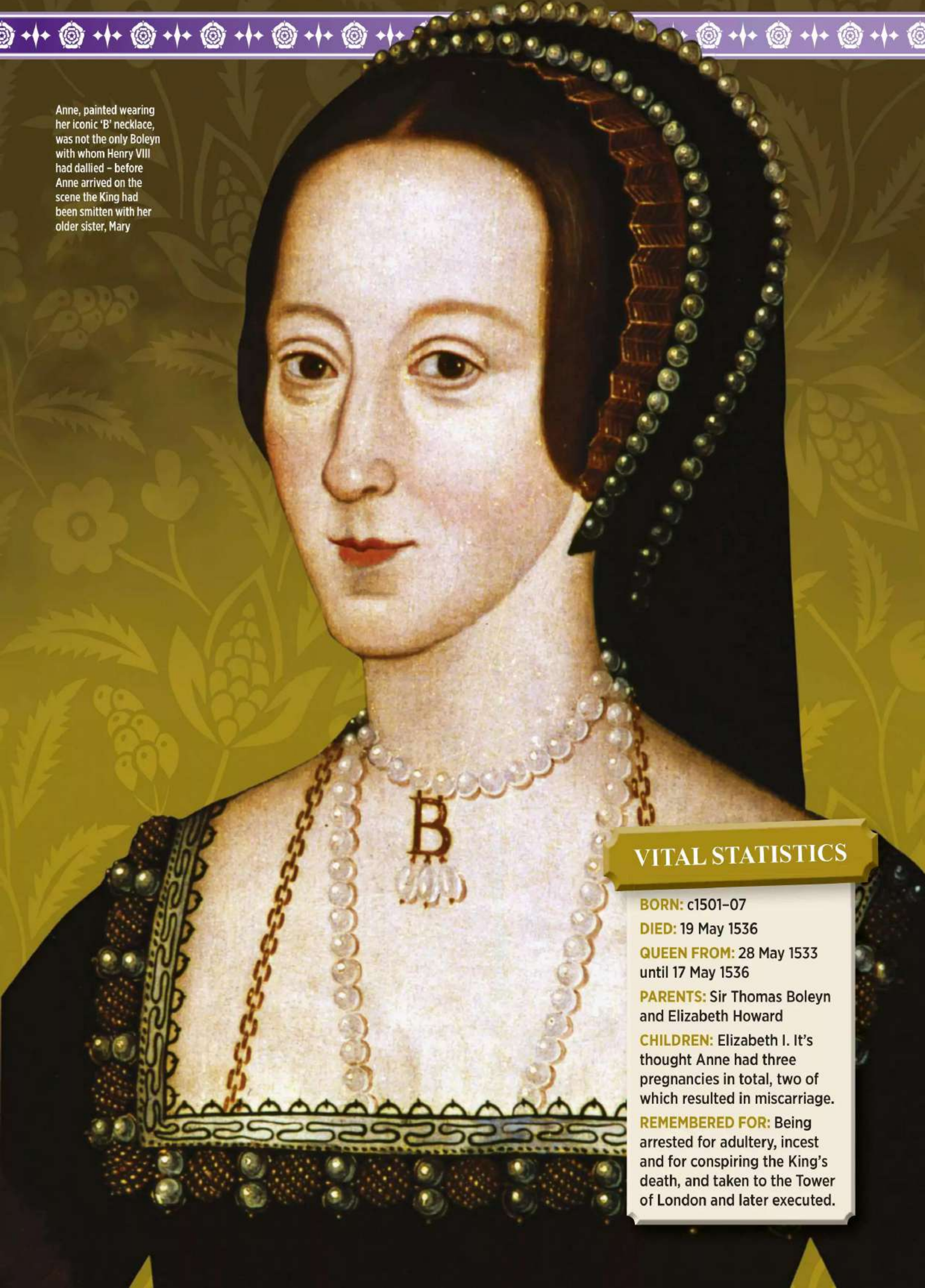


Anne, painted wearing her iconic 'B' necklace, was not the only Boleyn with whom Henry VIII had dallied – before Anne arrived on the scene the King had been smitten with her older sister, Mary

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: c1501–07

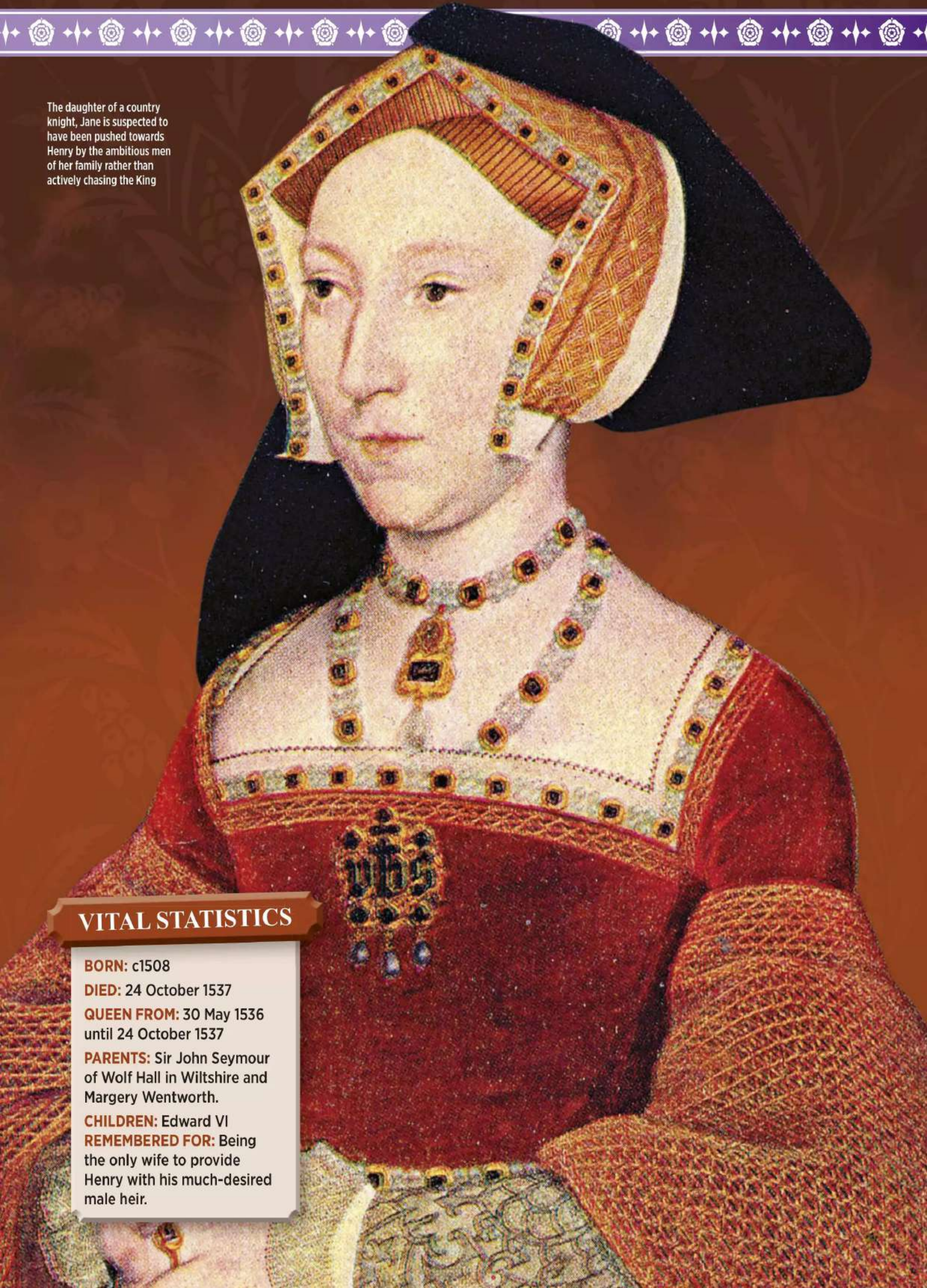
DIED: 19 May 1536

QUEEN FROM: 28 May 1533 until 17 May 1536

PARENTS: Sir Thomas Boleyn and Elizabeth Howard

CHILDREN: Elizabeth I. It's thought Anne had three pregnancies in total, two of which resulted in miscarriage.

REMEMBERED FOR: Being arrested for adultery, incest and for conspiring the King's death, and taken to the Tower of London and later executed.



The daughter of a country knight, Jane is suspected to have been pushed towards Henry by the ambitious men of her family rather than actively chasing the King

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: c1508

DIED: 24 October 1537

QUEEN FROM: 30 May 1536 until 24 October 1537

PARENTS: Sir John Seymour of Wolf Hall in Wiltshire and Margery Wentworth.

CHILDREN: Edward VI

REMEMBERED FOR: Being the only wife to provide Henry with his much-desired male heir.

JANE SEYMOUR THE 'OBEDIENT' ONE

Often considered demure and passive, Jane possessed a strong vein of moral courage, though we'll never know if Henry VIII would have eventually tired of her, too

WORDS: ELIZABETH NORTON

JANE'S EARLY LIFE

Jane Seymour, Henry VIII's third wife, was born in around 1508. Her distant kinsman, the courtier Sir Francis Bryan, secured a place for her in the service of Queen Catherine of Aragon. Jane later transferred into the household of Catherine's successor, Anne Boleyn.

By 1535, Jane was in her late twenties, with few marriage prospects. One contemporary considered her to be "no great beauty, so fair that one would call her rather pale than otherwise".

She nonetheless attracted the King's attention – perhaps when he visited Wolf Hall in September 1535. Anne Boleyn blamed the loss of her child, in late January 1536, on the developing relationship, complaining to Henry that she had "caught that abandoned woman Jane sitting on your knees". The Queen and her maid had already come to blows.

JANE'S RISE

Anne's failure to bear a son was an opportunity for Jane. When Henry sent her a letter and a purse of gold, she refused them, declaring that "she had no greater riches in the world than her honour, which she would not injure for a thousand deaths".

Henry was smitten with this show of virtue, henceforth insisting on meeting Jane only with a chaperone. During April they discussed marriage and, on 20 May 1536 – the day after Anne Boleyn's execution – the couple were betrothed. They married shortly afterwards. Jane, who took as her motto "bound to obey and serve", presented herself as meek and obedient. She was, however, instrumental in bringing Henry's estranged daughter, Princess Mary, back to court.

The new queen held conservative religious beliefs. This became apparent in October 1536 when she threw herself on her knees before the King at Windsor, begging him to restore the abbeys for fear that a rebellion, known as the Pilgrimage of Grace, was God's judgment against him. In response, Henry publicly reminded Jane of the fate of Anne Boleyn.

Without a son, Jane was vulnerable, and the postponement of her coronation was ominous. Finally, in May 1537, her pregnancy was publicly announced. Henry was solicitous to his wife, resolving to stay close to her and ordering fat quails from Calais when she desired to eat them.

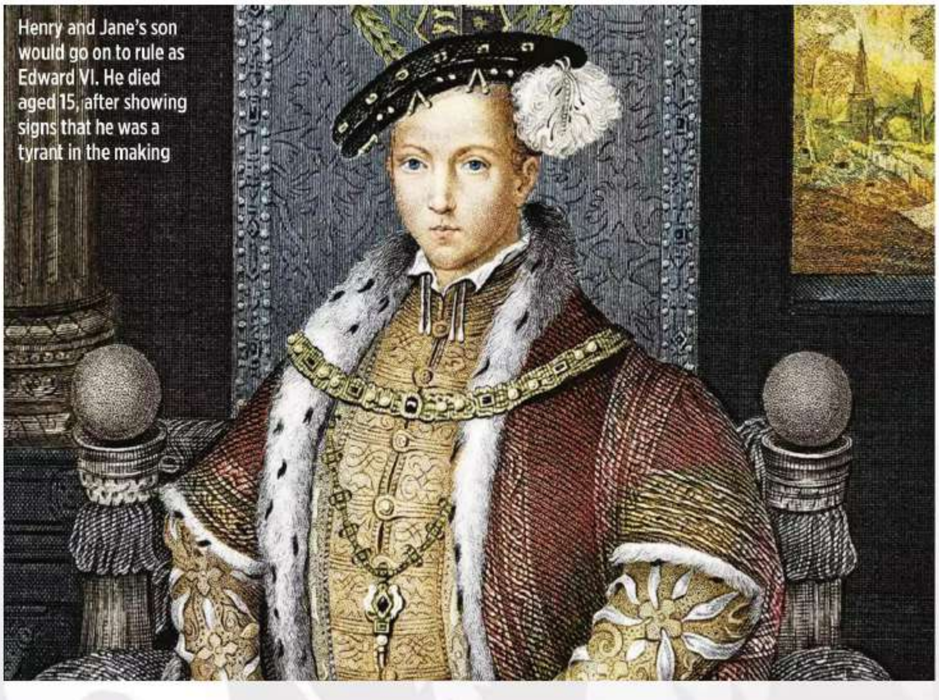
JANE'S FALL

Jane endured a labour of two days and three nights before bearing a son, Edward, at Hampton Court Palace on 12 October, to great rejoicing. She was well enough to appear at the christening on 15 October, lying in an antechamber, wrapped in furs. However, she soon sickened, with her attendants blamed for suffering "her to take great cold and to eat things that her fantasy in sickness called for". There may have been some truth to this. Although subsequent historians ascribed Jane's death to puerperal fever, recent research suggests she may have contracted food poisoning and died of a resulting infection. Alternatively, she may have contracted an infection from a retained placenta.

Jane Seymour, as the only one of Henry VIII's wives to die as queen, received a royal funeral at Windsor. She was later joined there by the King, who requested burial beside the mother of his only surviving son, who would succeed to Henry's throne as Edward VI. ⊙

ELIZABETH NORTON is an author and historian. Her most recent book is *The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women* (WW Norton & Company, 2020)

> **"As the only one of Henry VIII's wives to die as queen, Jane received a royal funeral at Windsor"**



Henry and Jane's son would go on to rule as Edward VI. He died aged 15, after showing signs that he was a tyrant in the making

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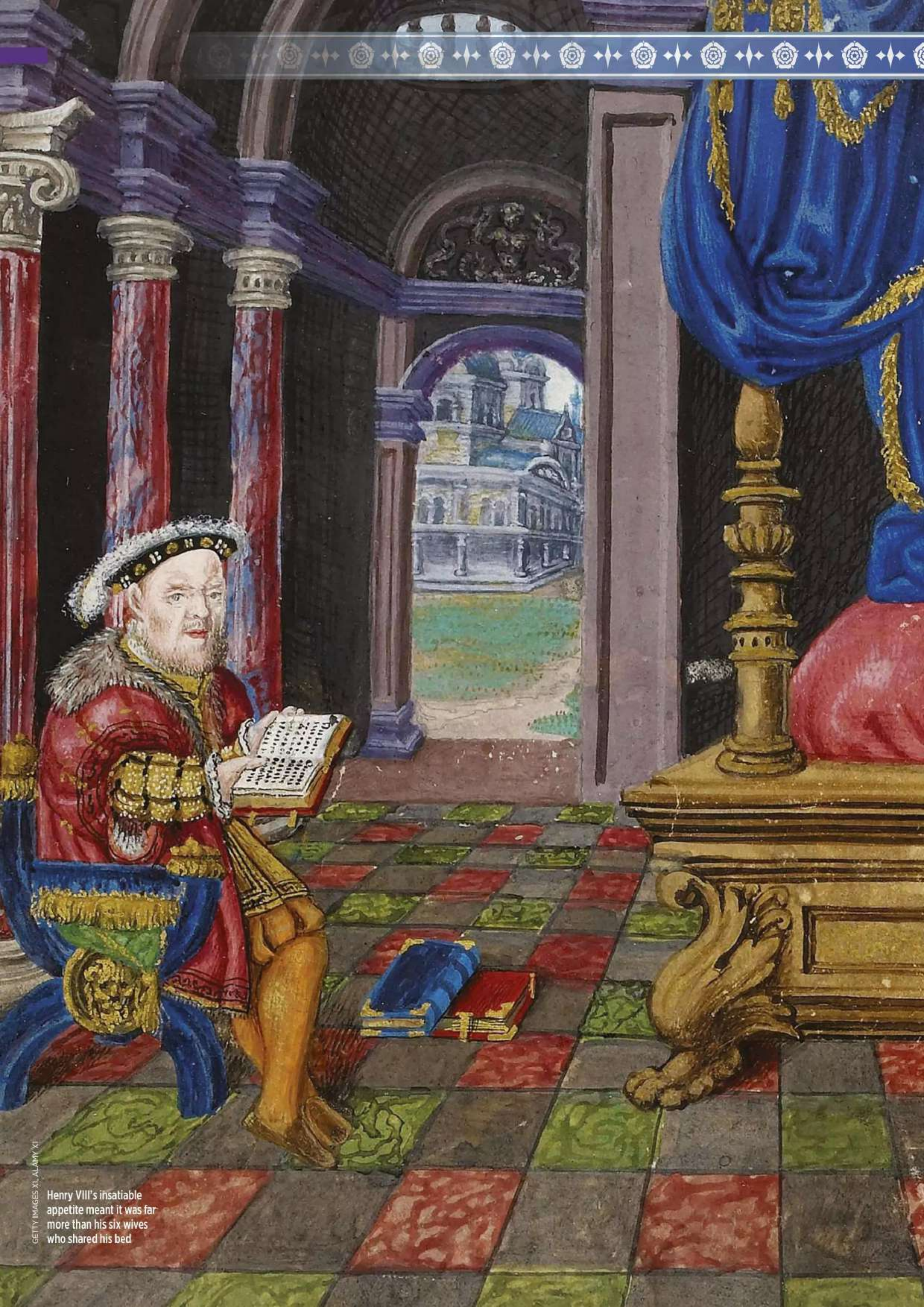


Henry VIII's insatiable appetite meant it was far more than his six wives who shared his bed

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X1

HENRY VIII'S MISTRESSES:

WHO ELSE DID THE TUDOR KING SLEEP WITH?

Famed for having six wives, Henry VIII's love life has long been the subject of scholarship, speculation and salacious fascination. But what do we know about the other women who shared the King's bed? **Amy Licence** investigates Henry's extra-marital liaisons

Popular history is so well versed in the six wives of Henry VIII that they require little introduction. Seemingly every depiction of his reign, from the colourful bodice-ripper series *The Tudors* to the flickering candlelight drama *Wolf Hall*, serves to remind us of the old mantra we learned at school: divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived.

We could be forgiven for thinking the King was so busy keeping up with the women to whom he was married that he had little time for others. That was not the truth, however, as Henry – with his "angelic" face, athletic build and red-gold hair – had an eye for the ladies, and in his early years, particularly, few could resist him.

Paradoxically, we can learn about Henry's mistresses through his wives. Anne Boleyn's refusal to sleep with the king in the late 1520s was all the more successful because he was so accustomed to other women saying yes. Two in particular are known: Elizabeth Blount and Anne's sister, Mary, who were Henry's lovers in the late 1510s and early 1520s after he started to question his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

'BESSIE' BLOUNT

Elizabeth, or 'Bessie', is the first woman who is known, with any certainty, to have been Henry's mistress. Born at Kinlet in Shropshire in around 1500, Bessie would have been just a teenager at the time she arrived at Henry's court. Her family home fell under the jurisdiction of Catherine of Aragon's first husband, Arthur, so it is not impossible that the young Catherine saw Bessie as a baby during her residence at Ludlow Castle in 1501-02. In fact, it is quite likely that Bessie's parents capitalised on this early connection to place their daughter in the Queen's household.

Two court dances suggest the duration of Bessie's tenure. She is recorded as being one of eight in a masque performed to celebrate new year 1515, partnered by Henry himself. Then, in October 1518, she was paired with courtier Francis Bryan during a masque performed at Durham House in London. It was around this time that she fell pregnant with Henry's son.

The pregnant Bessie disappeared from court, taken in secret by Henry's leading minister, Thomas Wolsey, into the safety of the Essex countryside. There, at the Augustinian priory of St Laurence at Blackmore, also known as 'Jericho', Bessie gave birth to Henry Fitzroy, the king's only acknowledged illegitimate child.

Henry stayed at two nearby properties that summer, Havering-atte-Bowe (aka Havering-atte-Bower) in August and Beaulieu in September, which allowed him to visit his ▶

DID YOU KNOW?

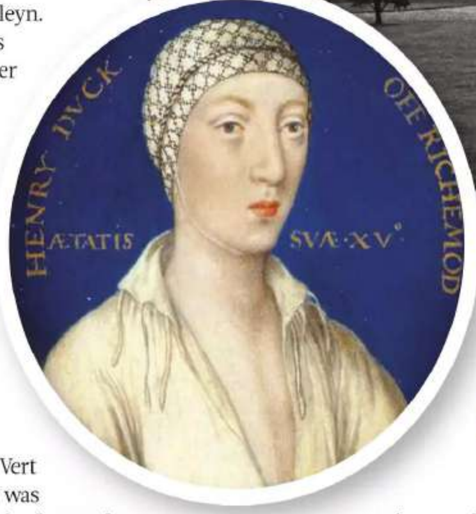
BESSIE'S BLESSING

Following the birth of Henry VIII's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy, in 1519, the saying "Bless 'ee Bessie Blount" became popular in parts of England. In her affair with the King, Blount had proven that he was capable of fathering a son.

Spending a summer at the palace of Beaulieu, Henry may have spent time with his illegitimate son

◀ newborn son had he been minded to do so. What his wife thought of the arrangement, or whether she was aware of the situation, is not recorded. Wolsey stood in as godfather and the boy would be awarded such significant titles as the dukedoms of Somerset and Richmond.

A marriage was arranged for Bessie to Gilbert Tailboys in 1522 – although some sources suggest 1519 – and she retired from court for a time, bearing at least two more children (with some sources suggesting three and others four) in the early 1520s. The uncertainty of the children's birth dates has led to speculation that they were fathered by Henry, although by this time we know he had moved on to Mary Boleyn. Bessie remarried in the 1530s following Tailboys' death – her son, Henry Fitzroy, died in 1536 – and served briefly as a lady-in-waiting to Anne of Cleves before her own death in around 1540.



Henry Fitzroy, the son that Henry VIII so craved, but born to one of his mistresses

"Henry's affairs are known to us by accident. If they were not, he might be lauded by historians for his faithfulness to Catherine of Aragon"

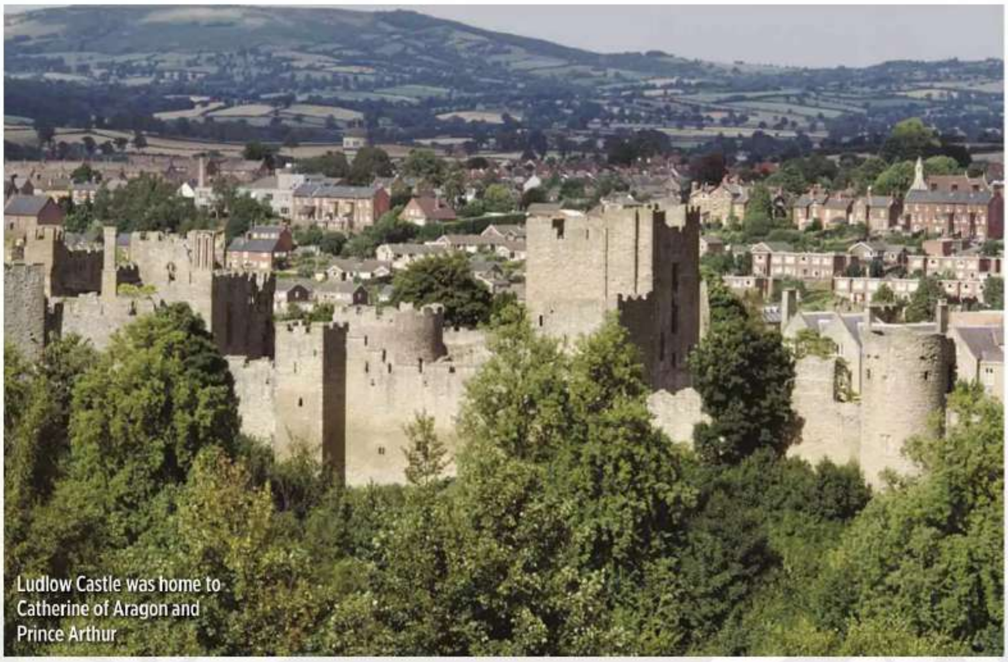
MARY BOLEYN

Another masque marks the centrality of the Boleyn sisters to the Tudor scene. In March 1522, Mary took the part of Kindness and Anne Boleyn that of Perseverance in the Chateau Vert pageant at York Place. Henry was among the eight men led by the figure of Ardent Desire to lay siege to the castle to rescue the women.

Anne had recently returned from the French court, which Mary had left several years before – rumours still persisted that Mary had been intimate with Francis I. In February 1520, Henry is thought to have attended Mary's wedding to his gentleman of the privy chamber, William Carey, or at least sent a gift in addition to his offering of 8s 6d. The exact moment Mary became Henry's mistress is unclear, but it is interesting that her marriage coincided with substantial gifts from Henry to her father and husband.

Much of Mary's personality and education eludes us, as do the details and duration of her affair with the King. Both she and Anne were known to Henry as the daughters of Sir Thomas Boleyn, who, along with Wolsey, had masterminded the magnificent Anglo-French meeting at the Field of Cloth of Gold. It was Mary who caught Henry's eye first. Her two children, Catherine and Henry, born in 1524 and 1526 respectively, have sometimes been attributed to the King. As Mary was married, though, the children were legally considered to be those of her husband, who always treated them as such.

By the time of the birth of Mary's son Henry, though, the King's attention had wandered to the enchanting, dark-eyed Anne Boleyn. We only know about his relationship with Mary since he required a dispensation to marry her sister, and so had to admit to the affair. When questioned about his relations with the Boleyn girls and their mother, Henry replied, tellingly: "Never with the mother". Following Carey's death from the sweating sickness, Mary privately remarried for love, returning briefly to court during her sister's reign and admitting her secret. Mary was banished for her indiscretion and lived out her days in the Essex countryside.



Ludlow Castle was home to Catherine of Aragon and Prince Arthur

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X3

Henry's relations with Bessie and Mary are known to us almost by accident. If Henry Fitzroy had not lived, or had

Henry not been forced to declare his past relationship with Mary, he might be lauded by historians for his faithfulness to Catherine of Aragon. These accidental survivals raise the question of what other secrets have remained concealed in Henry's private life. Glimmers of possible affairs can be read into his associations with other women at his court.

In 1534, during the King's marriage to Anne Boleyn, the imperial ambassador Eustace Chapuys wrote that Henry had "renewed and increased the love which he formerly bore to another very handsome young lady of his court" and that Anne attempted to "dismiss the damsel from her service".

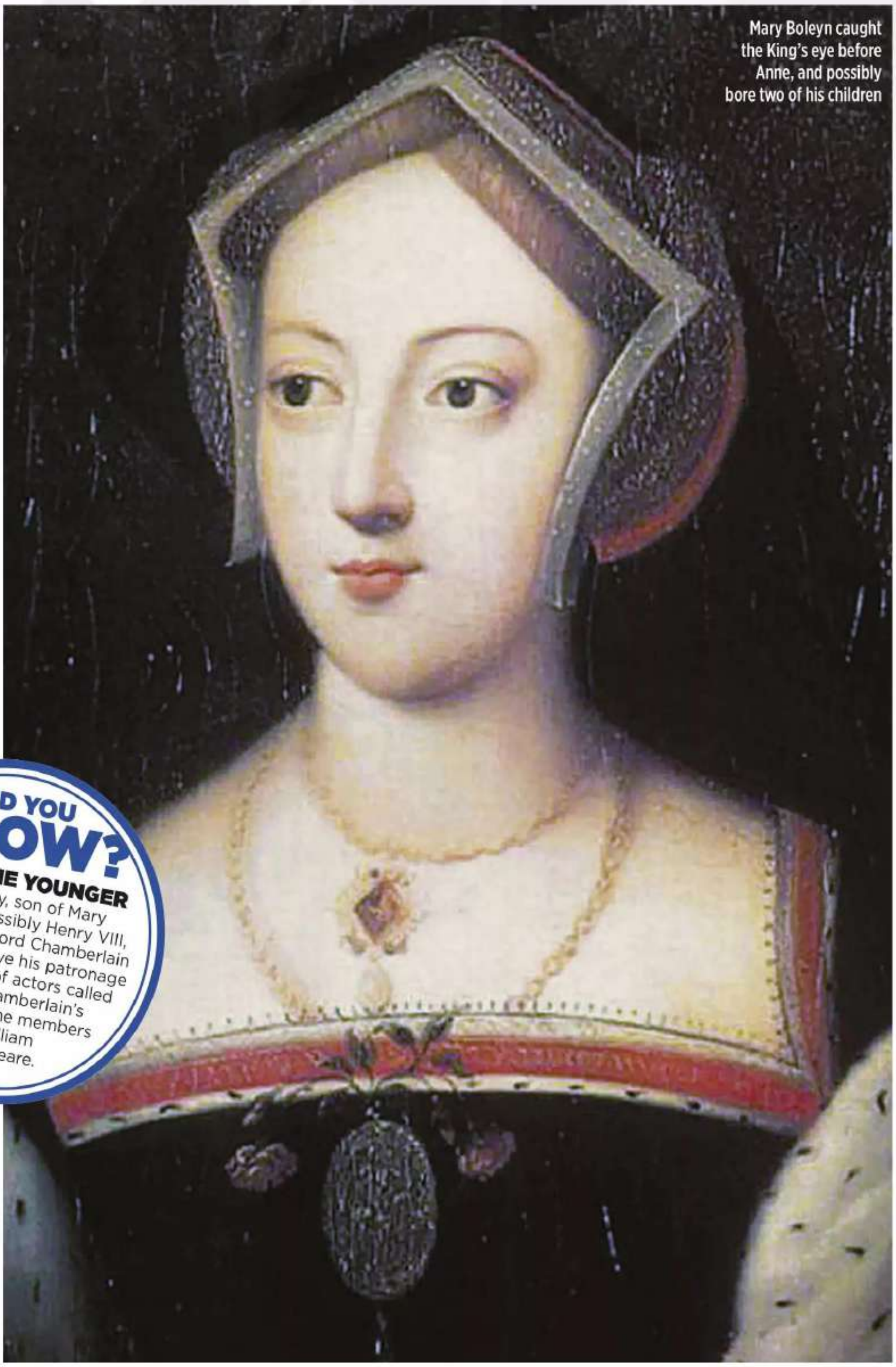
Referred to as the 'imperial lady', the identity of this woman cannot be verified, but her presence seems to have put a strain upon Henry's marriage, occasioning harsh words between husband and wife. 'Imperial' may not have referred to the woman's origins, but instead highlighted her sympathies to the cause of Rome and Henry's rejected daughter, Mary.

Also from this era date the rumours of Henry's involvement with Anne Boleyn's cousin, Margaret (or 'Madge') Shelton, who may be the same person as a Mary Shelton, who was previously assumed to be Anne's sister. Chapuys' letters from February 1535 make reference to a Mistress Shelton, and any affair she had with Henry would date to that year. Early in 1536, Madge was engaged to the ill-fated Henry Norris, who lost his head along with Anne Boleyn that May. Mistress Shelton was suggested as a potential wife for the widowed king two years later, but she married another man in 1546 and lived well into the reign of Elizabeth I.

DID YOU KNOW?

HENRY THE YOUNGER

Henry Carey, son of Mary Boleyn and possibly Henry VIII, went on to be Lord Chamberlain and, as such, gave his patronage to a company of actors called the Lord Chamberlain's Men. One of the members was William Shakespeare.



Mary Boleyn caught the King's eye before Anne, and possibly bore two of his children

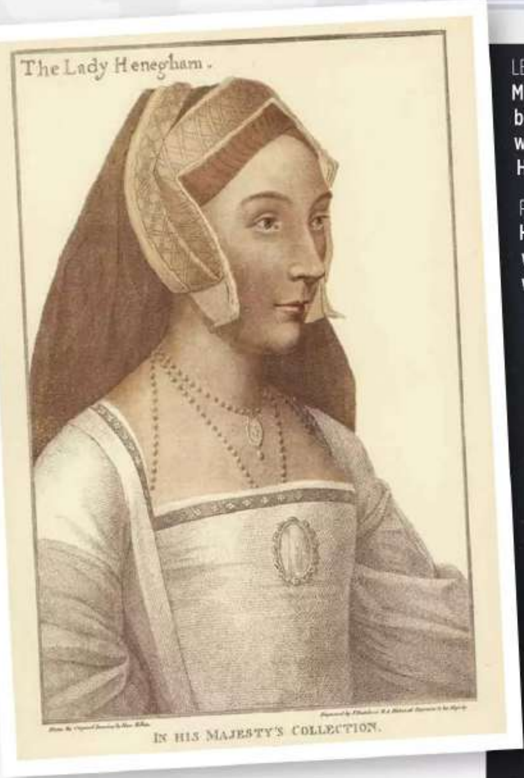
MORE MISTRESSES

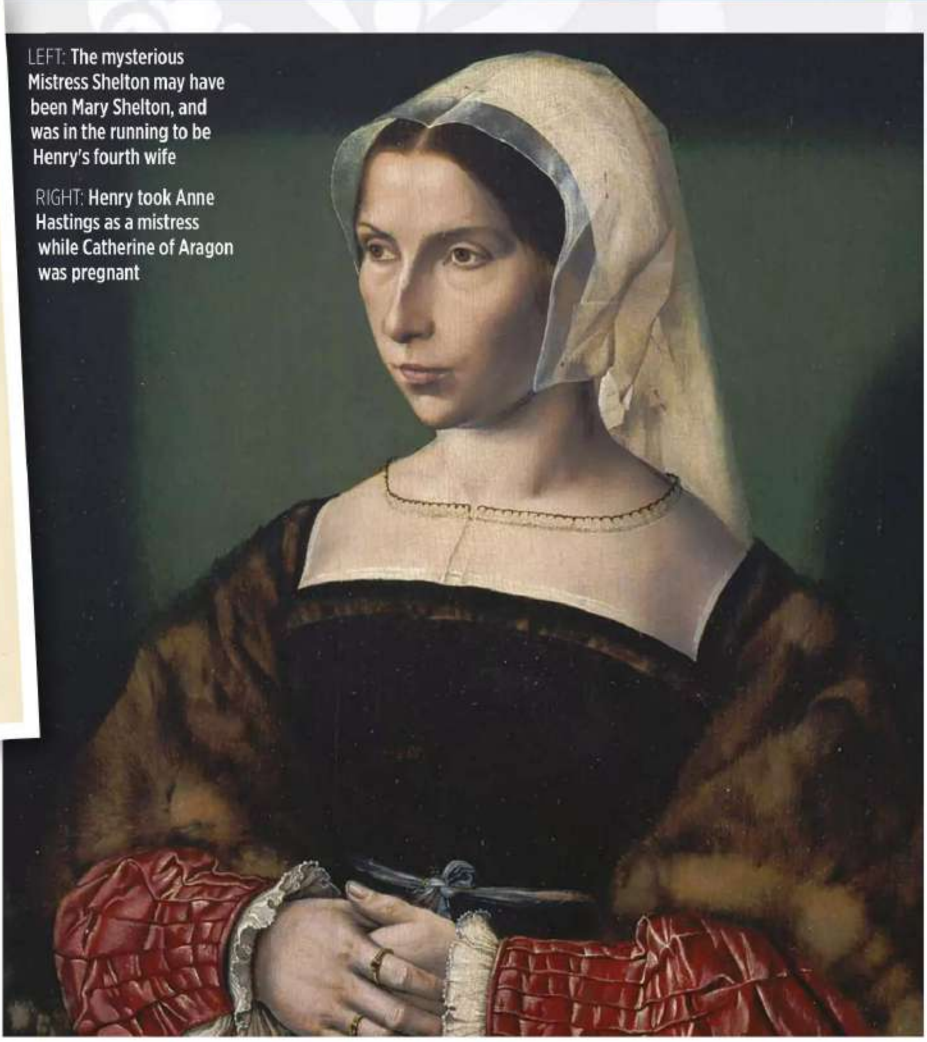
Most of the other reputed mistresses who may have shared Henry's bed date from the earlier part of his reign. During Catherine of Aragon's first pregnancy, in 1509, Henry was embroiled with Anne Hastings, sister of the Duke of Buckingham and a newly married member of Catherine's household. Henry's close friend William Compton appears to have acted as a go-between, although Anne later went on to have an affair with Compton himself, which caused Henry to send her away from court in retaliation.

There was also a 'Madame the Bastard', who kept Henry dancing into the small hours of the morning in 1513 at the court of Margaret of Savoy, and Étiennette de la Baume, whose plaintive letter to Henry asking for assistance reminded him of the promise he had made her when leaving France that year, and that he had called her his 'page'.

There was the mysterious Jane Popincourt, who was refused entry to France by Louis XII, with the comment that she should be burned, plus a host of other ladies who received gifts from Henry at some point, or danced with him in a masque. Their connections with Henry are only fleeting and suggested, yet they might hint at secrets that the king had hidden more successfully than those of Bessie and Mary.

Given Henry's desire for an heir, it is perhaps unsurprising that various stories survive that connect him with illegitimate paternity. The timing of these is interesting, with three in particular dating from the period when the king was wooing Anne Boleyn and, apparently, refraining from sex. If Henry did not sleep with Anne until 1532, ▶


The Lady Heneghan.
IN HIS MAJESTY'S COLLECTION.



LEFT: **The mysterious Mistress Shelton may have been Mary Shelton, and was in the running to be Henry's fourth wife**

RIGHT: **Henry took Anne Hastings as a mistress while Catherine of Aragon was pregnant**

Tudor medicine would have advised him not to remain completely celibate, as this would have been thought to imperil his health. Accordingly, Henry may have sought solace elsewhere.

Mary Berkeley had been married in 1526 to her uncle's ward, Thomas Perrot, settling in Pembrokeshire. Perrot had been knighted by Henry that year and was a renowned hunter, and it is thought that Mary was part of Catherine's household, placing the pair at court during these years. Mary's eldest son, John, was born in November 1528 and reputedly bore a resemblance to the King. As a young man, John was in the King's favour – Henry once intervened to prevent him from being punished after he was drawn into a brawl. When later involved with piracy, debt, deception and scandal, John's reputed parentage may have been a convenient method of escaping retribution.

In a similar manner, another man claimed to be Henry's son. Thomas Stukeley was employed as a standard bearer in 1547, placing him in his late teens. The son of Jane Pollard, married in around 1520 to Sir Hugh Stukeley, Thomas is thought to have been conceived when Henry stayed at their Devon home of Affeton Castle. Thomas was something of a romantic figure, and poems and plays written about him after his death – such as George Peele's 1590s work *The Battle of Alcazar* – served to inflame such rumours.

Finally, the child arguably most likely to be related to Henry is an Ethelreda, or Audrey, Malte. If Henry had sought sexual satisfaction from someone other than Anne Boleyn, he is more likely to have turned to a woman of the lower classes, who were considered to be more 'earthy' and would not complicate lines of dynastic inheritance. Audrey's mother was a Joan or Joanna Dingley, employed as a royal laundress, and the girl was raised by one of the cutters in the King's wardrobe. John Malte "and Awdrye his base daughter" received a grant of £1,312 from the King while he lay on his deathbed, a huge sum for mere servants. Nothing more is known of Joanna or her daughter.

> **"Far from being a prude, Henry was a very private man and took measures to cover his tracks"**

Was Thomas Stukeley further proof that Henry had no trouble siring sons out of wedlock?

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

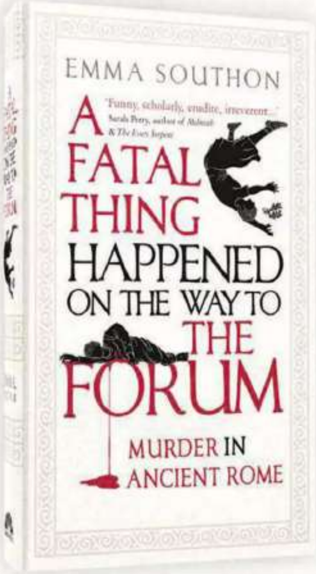
What this exploration of Henry's love life makes tantalisingly clear is the fragile nature of the surviving sources. Henry's desire for secrecy, and his ability to achieve it, are coupled with the problematic nature of rumour and second-hand accounts that date from this period. It may be that Chapuys exaggerated or that Perrot made false claims. Perhaps, in the case of Jane Popincourt, Louis XII was mistaken, or that Anne Hastings' sister was being a little over-protective.

What we know for certain is that our scant knowledge of Henry's affairs with Bessie and Mary reached us accidentally and indirectly. Far from being a prude, Henry was a very private man and took measures to cover his tracks. When it comes to the question of who shared the King's bed, it is likely that we will never know the full truth. ⊙

AMY LICENCE is an author and historian. Her works include *The Six Wives & Many Mistresses of Henry VIII* (Amberley, 2014)

'Blood, guts, murder, emperors and a sprinkling of uplifting Latin.'
Harry Mount, author of *Carpe Diem* and *mo Amas Amat... and All That*

'A brilliant idea, brilliantly executed.'
Tom Holland, author of *Rubicon, Dynasty* and *Dominion*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ANNE OF CLEVES THE 'PRAGMATIC' ONE

Their marriage was a brief six months, but Anne of Cleves would keep her head and become a lifelong friend to the King

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

ANNE'S LIFE

Born in Düsseldorf, Anne of Cleves was the original mail-order bride, and was being suggested as a potential fourth bride for Henry within weeks of Jane Seymour's death. Then aged 22, Anne was used to being used as a pawn for dynastic alliances: she had been betrothed to the future Duke of Lorraine, but that arrangement had fallen through, and she was free to make a beneficial match elsewhere.

ANNE'S RISE

After the death of Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, just days after she'd given birth to their son Edward, the grief-stricken king went into mourning. But in March 1539, threatened by the potential for a treaty between his two great Catholic rivals, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and French king Francis I, Henry decided that he, too, needed a strong political alliance, and agreed that negotiations for a marriage with Anne of Cleves could begin. Henry's chief adviser, Thomas Cromwell, was fully supportive of the match with Anne of Cleves and relayed tales of her reported beauty. Keen to see for himself, Henry sent artist Hans Holbein to capture Anne's likeness, and the King was delighted with the result. A treaty was signed, and a few weeks later, Anne set off on her journey to her new home.

ANNE'S FALL

Anne arrived at Rochester Castle on New Year's Eve where Henry was horrified to discover that – in his opinion – Holbein's portrait had been a tad too flattering. The 48-year-old monarch – hardly a catch himself by this time – was not at all pleased with his betrothed's appearance or character, shouting angrily to Cromwell behind closed doors: "I like her not! I like her not!" Anne has since been labelled the 'ugly wife', yet no other disparaging comments on her appearance had been made prior to this and the nickname of 'Flanders Mare', often attributed to Henry, would not be coined until the following century.

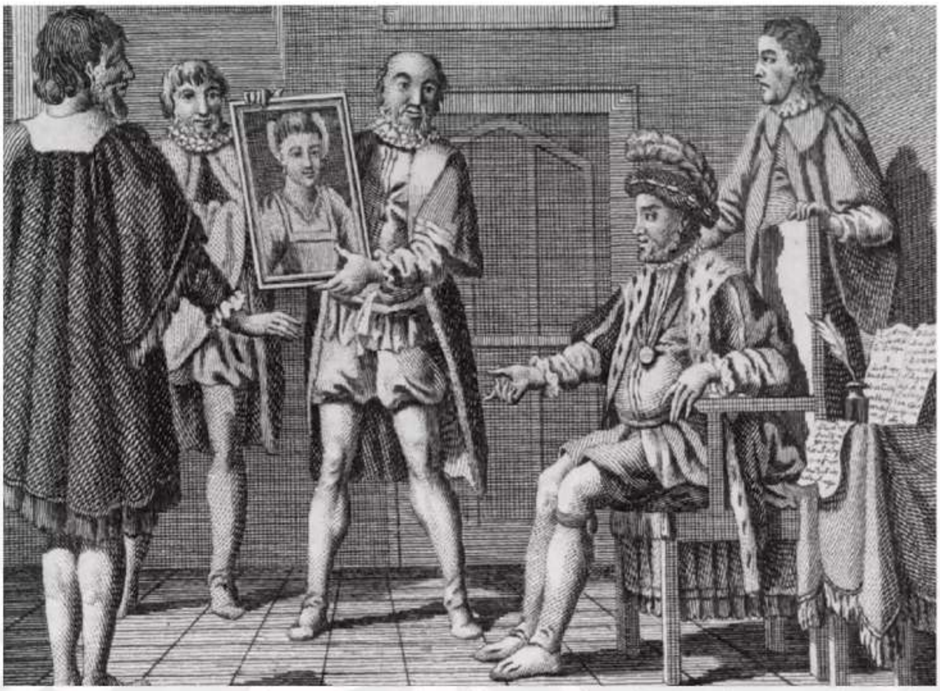
Despite Henry's misgivings, there was nothing else for it but to go ahead with the marriage, which took place on 6 January 1540. The wedding night was a disaster: Henry, who was probably suffering from intermittent impotence, claimed he found Anne so unattractive that he could not consummate their marriage, complaining loudly of her "loose" flesh and "evil smells". To outsiders, however, the union appeared a happy one, although Anne lacked the courtly refinements Henry expected in an English queen – the education of the female nobility in Cleves focused on practical skills such as managing a household and needlework, rather than languages, dancing and music favoured at the English court.

Moreover, the King had already set his romantic sights on a young lady-in-waiting, making him even more desperate to be rid of Anne.

Anne was asked to remove herself from court in June while an ecclesiastical inquiry was carried out on the validity of the marriage. Her union with Henry was declared invalid in July of the same year on the grounds of non-consummation and a supposed pre-contract of marriage between Anne and the future Duke of Lorraine.

Anne, wisely, consented to the annulment but remained in England. She became close friends with Henry, who referred to her as his 'beloved sister', and she received a generous annual allowance, as well as Richmond Palace, Hever Castle and Bletchingley Manor in the annulment settlement. In death, Anne became the only one of Henry's wives to be buried in Westminster Abbey. ⊙

"Henry complained loudly of Anne's "loose flesh" and "evil smells""



Henry VIII agreed to marry Anne of Cleves without meeting her, relying instead on a Hans Holbein painting

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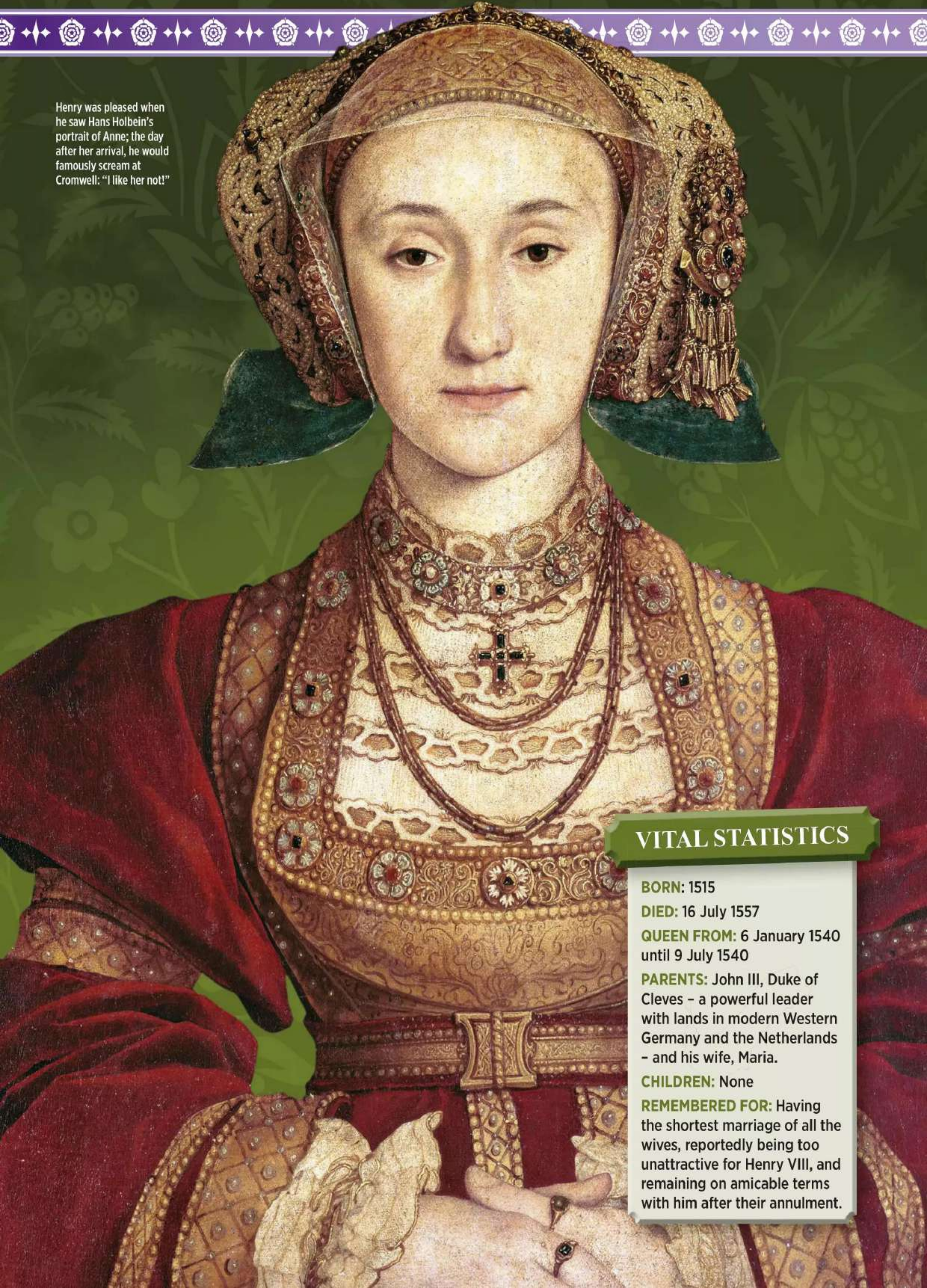


Henry was pleased when he saw Hans Holbein's portrait of Anne; the day after her arrival, he would famously scream at Cromwell: "I like her not!"

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: 1515

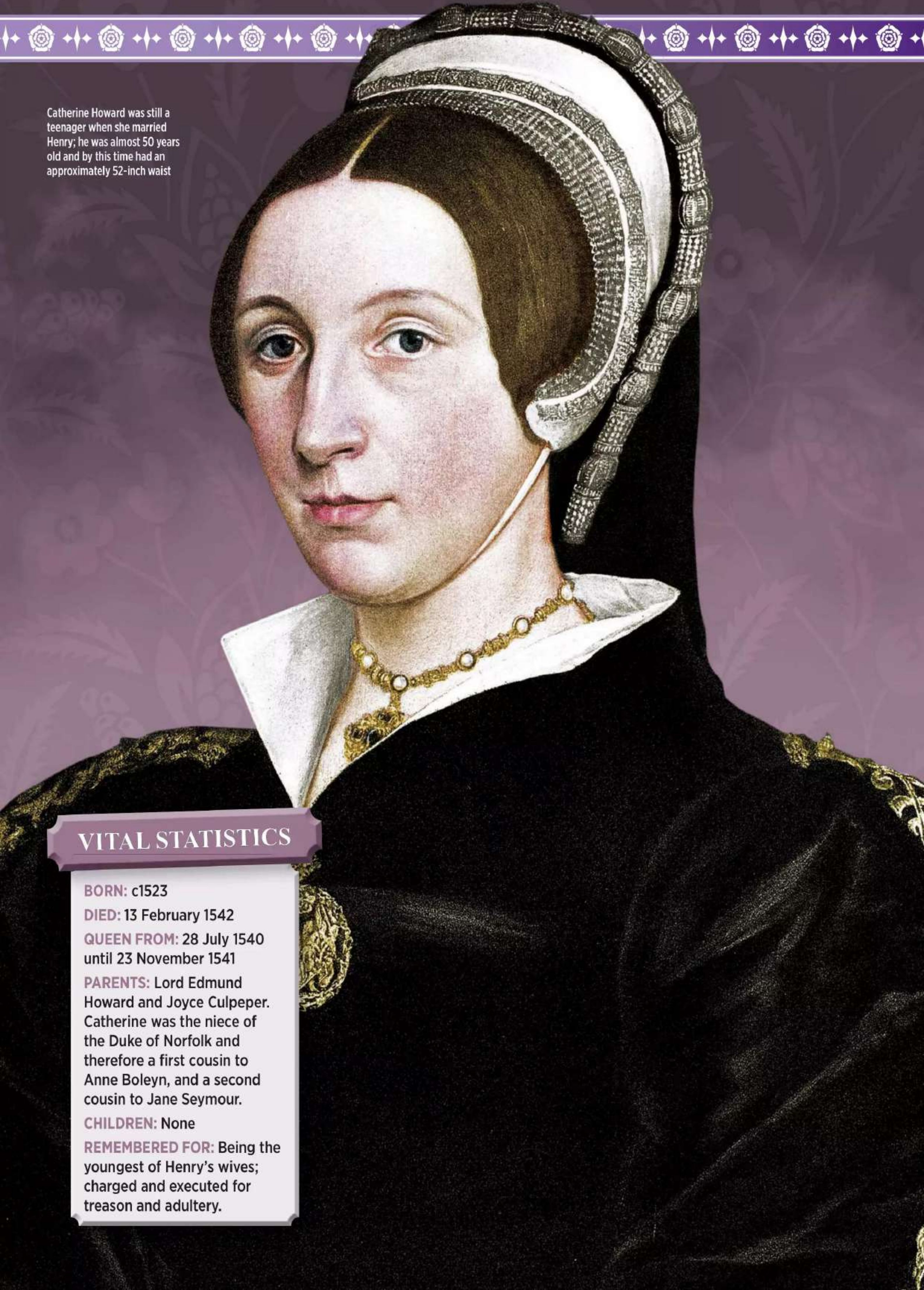
DIED: 16 July 1557

QUEEN FROM: 6 January 1540 until 9 July 1540

PARENTS: John III, Duke of Cleves – a powerful leader with lands in modern Western Germany and the Netherlands – and his wife, Maria.

CHILDREN: None

REMEMBERED FOR: Having the shortest marriage of all the wives, reportedly being too unattractive for Henry VIII, and remaining on amicable terms with him after their annulment.



Catherine Howard was still a teenager when she married Henry; he was almost 50 years old and by this time had an approximately 52-inch waist

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: c1523

DIED: 13 February 1542

QUEEN FROM: 28 July 1540 until 23 November 1541

PARENTS: Lord Edmund Howard and Joyce Culpeper. Catherine was the niece of the Duke of Norfolk and therefore a first cousin to Anne Boleyn, and a second cousin to Jane Seymour.

CHILDREN: None

REMEMBERED FOR: Being the youngest of Henry's wives; charged and executed for treason and adultery.

CATHERINE HOWARD THE 'EXPLOITED' ONE

Picked out by Henry for her good looks, the teen queen was beset by rumours about her past almost as soon as she reached court, and those whispers would prove her undoing

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

CATHERINE'S EARLY LIFE

The exact date of Catherine Howard's birth is unknown, and little is known about her early childhood either. But when Catherine was about ten or 12 years old, after her mother had died and her father had remarried, she was sent to live with her step-grandmother, the Dowager Duchess of Norfolk. It was in the Norfolk household that the seeds of Catherine's later undoing would be sown. At around the age of 13, Catherine is believed to have entered – willingly or otherwise – into a sexual relationship with her music teacher, Henry Mannox, and later with a secretary in the household, Francis Dereham.

CATHERINE'S RISE

Henry VIII first noticed Catherine in 1540, when she was serving as a lady-in-waiting to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. Unlike Anne, the vivacious Catherine was attractive to the king, and Henry was determined that this time he would choose his bride for himself rather than relying on his advisers. The couple were married in July 1540, just weeks after the union to Anne had been declared invalid and – in a gruesome moment of foreshadowing – on the same day that Henry's ex-adviser Thomas Cromwell was executed. Catherine's rise to power at court was astonishingly fast. With an age gap of more than 30 years, the young queen made Henry feel young again and he could deny his 'rose without a thorn' nothing.

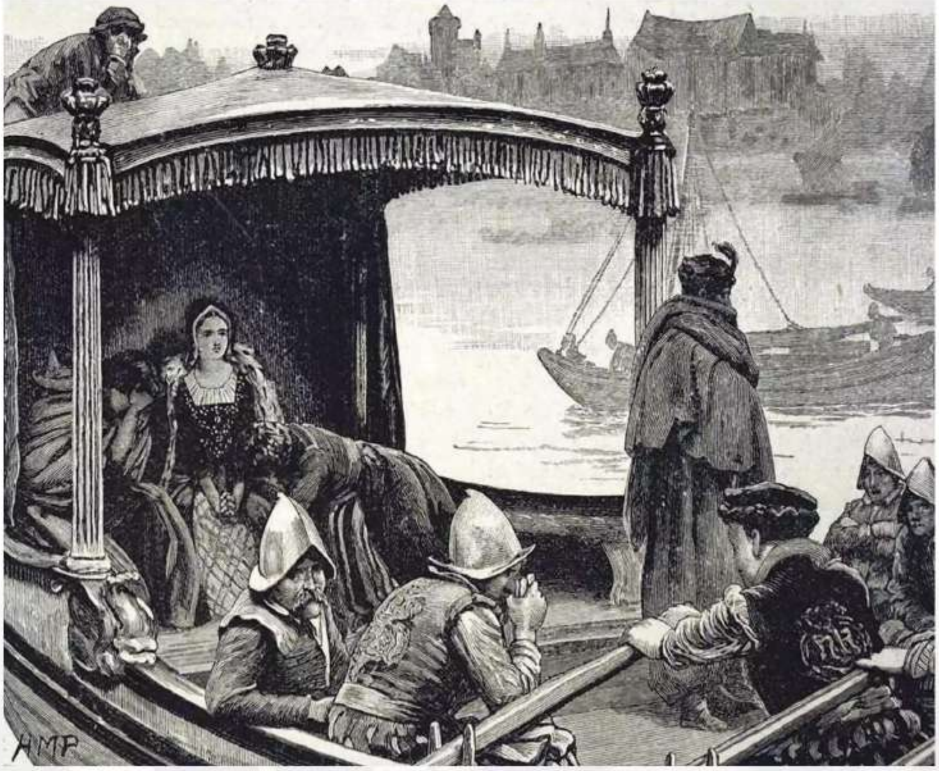
CATHERINE'S FALL

Rumours that Catherine was already sexually experienced circulated at court relatively early in her relationship with Henry. However, he was so besotted with her that he did not give these credence. But, in November 1541, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, presented Henry with evidence that Catherine had been conducting a relationship with the courtier Thomas Culpeper. Cranmer had also been made aware of Catherine's earlier relationship with Dereham, who was now living and working at the royal court.

Under torture, Dereham confessed that, prior to her relationship with the King, he and Catherine had entered into a pre-contract to marry. Such a vow was considered as binding as a marriage under canon law, and so brought into question the validity of the royal marriage. Catherine was arrested at Hampton Court Palace and stripped of her title of queen. She is believed to made a desperate, failed attempt to reach the king to beg for his mercy – but she would not see her husband again.

After confessing to a pre-contract with Dereham, Catherine was sentenced to death without a trial. Dereham and Culpepper had been executed beforehand, their heads displayed on London Bridge as traitors. Catherine herself was forced to pass beneath the grisly spectacle when she was taken to the Tower of London – she, too, was beheaded, on 13 February 1542.

> "Catherine made Henry feel young again and he could deny his 'rose without a thorn' nothing"



Catherine Howard is transported by barge to the Tower of London, accompanied by guards and her weeping ladies-in-waiting, in this 19th-century image. Stripped of her royal title, Catherine was beheaded at 9am on 13 February 1542

GETTY IMAGES X3

KATHERINE PARR THE 'RADICAL' ONE

Twice widowed before she married Henry – and deeply in love with another man – Parr sowed the seeds of reconciliation between the King and his children

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

KATHERINE'S EARLY LIFE

Katherine Parr had already been married and widowed twice before becoming Henry's sixth and final wife. At 17, she married Sir Edward Burgh, heir to baronetcy of Burgh, but he died four years later. In 1534, Parr married John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, who was almost twice her age and already had two children, but by early 1543 she was a widow again. Following this she established herself into the household of the Princess Mary – Katherine's mother, Maud, had been a close friend of the Princess's mother, Catherine of Aragon.

KATHERINE'S RISE

Waiting a year after the disastrous end of his short-lived marriage to Catherine Howard, Henry once more began to look for a wife. Intelligent and with strong reformist principles, the 31-year-old Katherine Parr seemed a more sensible choice than the young girl the King had recently sent to the block. However, Katherine was in love with Thomas Seymour, the brother of the late queen Jane. Jealous of a rival for Katherine's affections, Henry sent Thomas to Brussels as English ambassador and Katherine, somewhat reluctantly, agreed to marry the King. It would not have been a wise move to refuse him.

Katherine was the perfect companion for the aging king and took a keen interest in her stepchildren. It's believed her influence over Henry encouraged him to invite his two daughters to court more often, and to pass the Third Succession Act in 1543, which restored both Mary and Elizabeth to the succession, after their half-brother Edward.

Katherine did have a close call when it came to her devout religious beliefs, though. She grew increasingly vocal about her commital to the the radical faith of Protestantism and did all she could to promote the religion. The conservative Bishop of Winchester, Stephen Gardiner, prepared evidence of the queen's heresy and moved to have her arrested. Alerted to the danger, Katherine took to her bed, declaring that she was unwell. The King rushed to her side where Katherine pleaded forgiveness for displeasing him, and Henry reproached Gardiner for questioning his wife. Katherine published three religious books during her life and became the first woman in England to publish under her own name, in English.

KATHERINE AFTER HENRY

Henry VIII died in on 28 January 1547 leaving Katherine free to resume her relationship with her former love, Thomas Seymour.

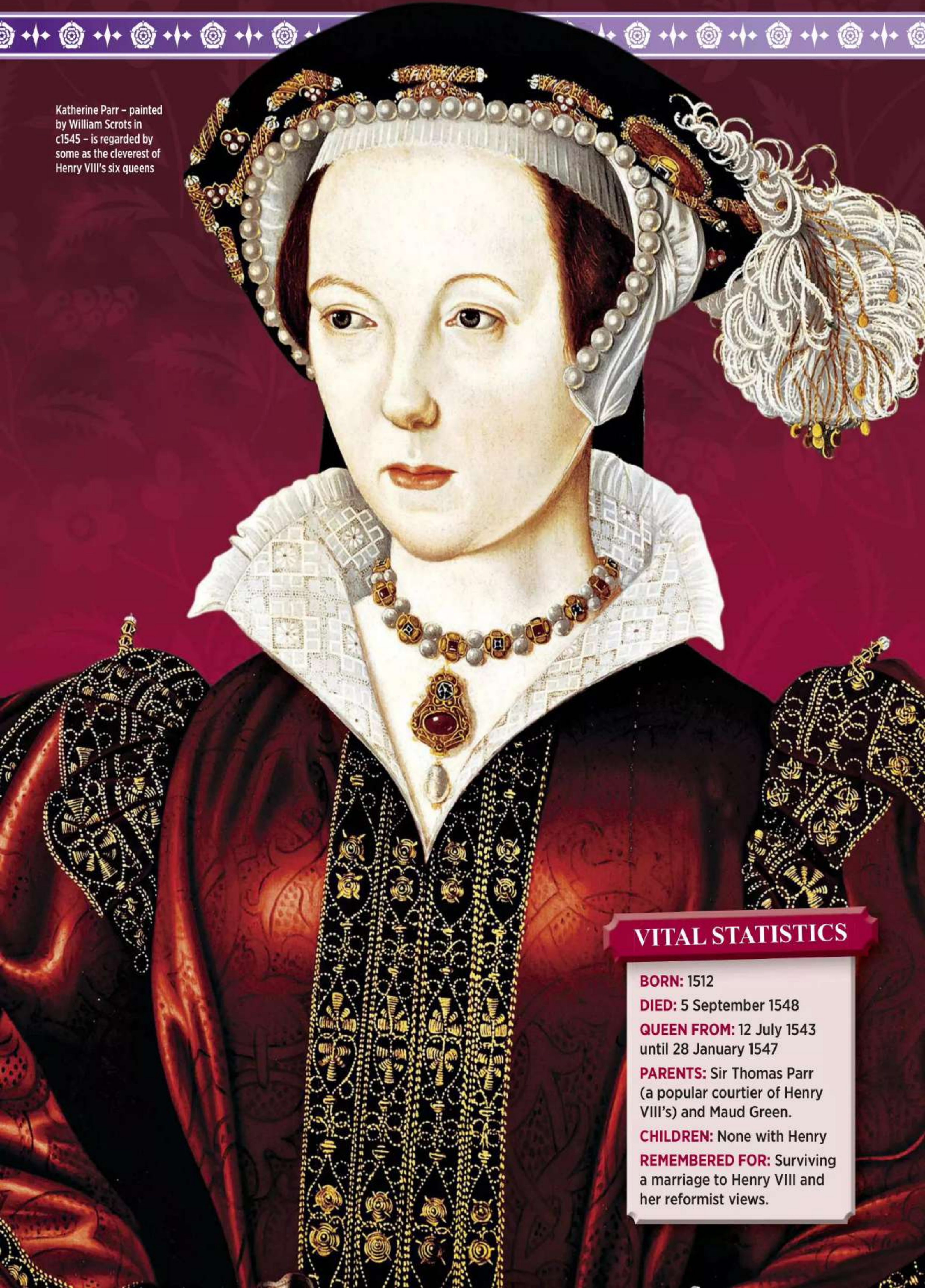
Four months later the pair were married – in secret since it would have been frowned upon for the Dowager Queen to marry so soon after Henry's death. The union caused a scandal at court and infuriated Edward VI as well as Princess Mary. Princess Elizabeth, however, who had always been close to her last stepmother, did not share her half siblings' disapproval but went to live with Katherine and her new husband.

Tragically, Katherine died the following year, days after giving birth to a daughter, Mary. Thomas Seymour would be executed for treason in 1549, during the reign of Edward VI, while their little daughter Mary is thought to have died in early childhood.

> **"Katherine was the perfect companion for the aging king and took a keen interest in her stepchildren"**

MAIN: **Parr's tomb at Sudely Castle in Gloucestershire; she is the only Queen of England to be buried on private land**
INSET: **Less well-known is the fact that Parr authored three religious books**

SUDELEY CASTLE X2, GETTY IMAGES X2



Katherine Parr – painted by William Scrots in c1545 – is regarded by some as the cleverest of Henry VIII's six queens

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN: 1512

DIED: 5 September 1548

QUEEN FROM: 12 July 1543 until 28 January 1547

PARENTS: Sir Thomas Parr (a popular courtier of Henry VIII's) and Maud Green.

CHILDREN: None with Henry

REMEMBERED FOR: Surviving a marriage to Henry VIII and her reformist views.

FIT FOR A QUEEN

We take a look at the castles, palaces and homes that shaped the lives of Henry VIII's six wives

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

Much of Hampton Court Palace has been renovated since the time of Henry VIII, but the Tudor-era kitchens and Great Hall can still be seen

There have been several reports of faintings and chills felt in the Haunted Gallery

HAMPTON COURT PALACE SURREY

The jewel of England's Tudor palaces witnessed a fair few important events during Henry's reign – if only the walls could talk

One of the most important residences during Henry VIII's reign, Hampton Court Palace is a treasure trove of Tudor history.

In January 1515, the then Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Wolsey commissioned for himself an extravagant palace fit to entertain the King, into whose hands it fell after Wolsey's later fall from grace. Henry continued to expand the palace to create a permanent royal residence, adding private apartments as well as a tennis court, tiltyard and magnificent Great Hall.

It's believed that at some point all six of Henry's wives visited or stayed at Hampton Court, and it was from here, in 1530, that the King sent his first letter to Rome threatening to break with the Catholic Church as he tried to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

Many of the early alterations Henry made to the palace would have had his second wife Anne Boleyn in mind – even while Anne was being beheaded in 1536, work was still underway on her royal apartments. Construction workers were then ordered to remove any references to the disgraced queen, although a few remain.

Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, gave birth to the future Edward VI at Hampton Court in 1537. Henry was overjoyed and an elaborate christening was held. Jane, however, died less than two weeks later, of a postpartum infection. A ghostly figure holding a taper has been sighted on the stairs leading to the room where Jane died.

Spooky experiences, including the sounds of screams and cold chills, have also been reported in the so-called Haunted Gallery. Some believe the ghost of Catherine Howard haunts this space, recreating a desperate flight to Henry to plead for her life. It's an intriguing thought, but the layout of the palace means that any such event is unlikely to have taken place here.

ALAMY X3, HEVER CASTLE & GARDENS X1, GETTY IMAGES X1, BNPS X1

Syon House was once a grand monastery and home to the Bridgettine Order

DID YOU KNOW?

THE FINAL WORD

An anonymous chronicle claimed that Catherine Howard's last words were: " I die a queen, but I would rather die the wife of Thomas Culpeper". Culpeper was her accused lover, but historians dispute that she would have said this.

SYON HOUSE

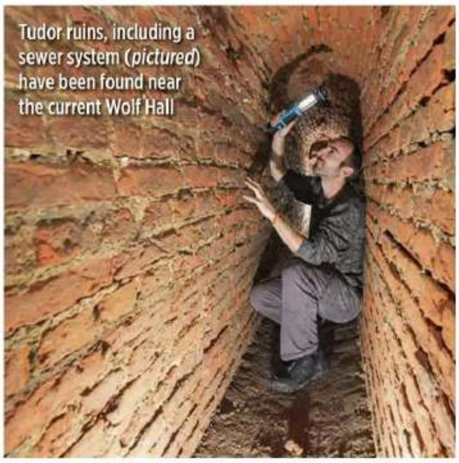
LONDON

This house of God became a hell on earth for Catherine Howard

Before Syon House in West London became the grand structure that stands today, it was the site of an abbey and home to the monastic Bridgettine Order. The monastery was dissolved and its community expelled in 1539, by which time it was one of England's wealthiest religious houses.

Catherine Howard was imprisoned at the abbey during the winter of 1541, while she awaited her fate after facing accusations of adultery; she was taken to the Tower of London for execution the following February. Henry VIII's funeral procession stopped overnight at Syon on its journey to Windsor Castle in 1547. It is said that the King's body exploded (or that the coffin cracked and leaked) during its stay here.

Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset – and brother of third wife Jane – later came into possession of the abbey and began transforming it into a grand mansion.


Tudor ruins, including a sewer system (*pictured*) have been found near the current Wolf Hall

WOLF HALL

WILTSHIRE

The scene of one queen's rise and the fall of another

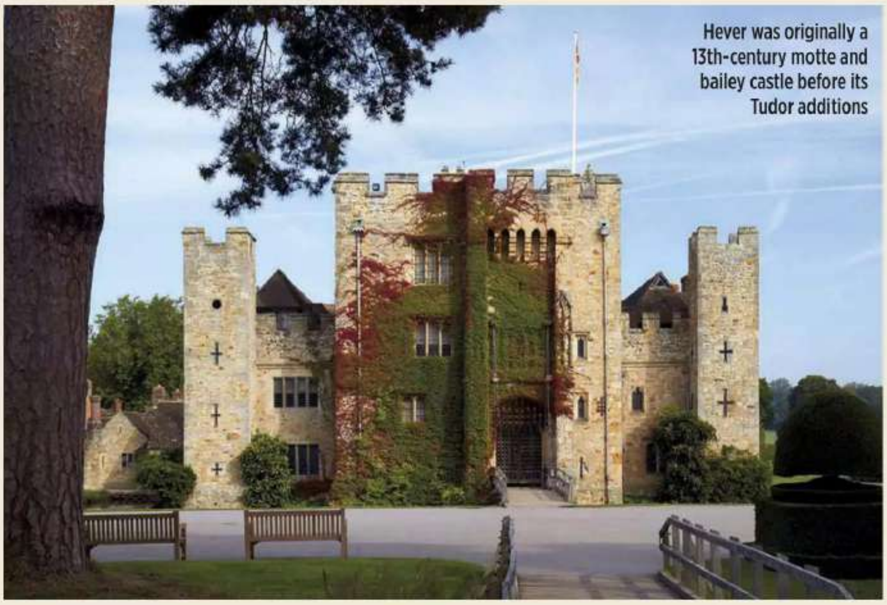
The medieval manor house of Wolf (or Wulf) Hall in Wiltshire was the childhood home of Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour. In 1535, Henry and Anne Boleyn visited the Seymours here as part of their summer progress – little did Anne know that her time as queen would one day come to a bloody end and that she was in the presence of her successor. Some say that this is where Jane first caught the attention of the King, though she had been in the service of both Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn by this time.

Henry and Jane are thought to have held a wedding feast in a barn at Wolf Hall, but nothing of the original buildings remains above ground. The original Wolf Hall was demolished in 1723 and replaced with the house we see today.

HEVER CASTLE KENT

The romantic Kent castle, complete with moat, was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn

In 1462, Hever Castle was bought by the Boleyn family, and Anne's father, Thomas, inherited it in 1504, a few years after she was born. Having spent eight years at the courts of both Margaret of Austria and Francis I, Anne returned to England in early 1522 where her sister Mary was now Henry VIII's mistress. Joining Catherine of Aragon's household, Anne herself would eventually attract the attention of the King and become a rival to her sister for his affection. In 1523, Anne became secretly betrothed to Henry Percy, but his father, the Earl of Northumberland, would not agree to the union. It's believed Henry may have had a hand in preventing it, too – so Anne was banished back to Hever. Over the next few years, Henry himself became enamoured with Anne, regularly sending love letters to her there. They were married in 1533 and, in September that year, Anne gave birth to Elizabeth I. Just three years later Anne was accused of adultery and treason and sent to the block.


Hever was originally a 13th-century motte and bailey castle before its Tudor additions

Henry would also send two of his advisors (and one-time friends) to be executed at the Tower: Thomas More and Thomas Cromwell

TOWER OF LONDON

The fortress where two wives met their deaths

The White Tower was built as a mighty fortress in the late 11th century by William the Conqueror and later expanded into the Tower of London complex – garrison, menagerie, royal residence, prison and site of execution. Anne Boleyn and Henry feasted here shortly before her coronation, in 1533, and Henry had the Queen's Apartments renovated for the occasion. Just three years later, Anne was back, but as a prisoner rather than honoured guest – despite being held in the same rooms. After her beheading, in May 1536, Anne was buried in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula at the Tower. Henry appears to have shown some mercy at least to his former love, and an expert swordsman was brought in from France to perform the bloody deed.

Less than six years later, Henry's fifth wife Catherine Howard also found her head on the block. She, too, is buried in the chapel.

Lady Jane Grey 1554 · Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex 1601

A sculpture commemorates those executed at the Tower, including Boleyn and Howard

DID YOU KNOW?

DIGGING FOR ROSES

In 2018, a Tudor garden was uncovered at Sudeley Castle. Remains of a banqueting house were also found, consistent with temporary gardens erected for Elizabeth I's progress across England, celebrating the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

SUDELEY CASTLE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The home where Katherine Parr had her happy ending – almost

In 1535, Sudeley Castle – then property of the Crown – was visited by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn after being neglected for some years. From nearby Winchcombe Abbey, Henry would meet with Thomas Cromwell to discuss plans for the Dissolution of the Monasteries. In 1547, when Edward VI came to the throne, he gifted the Gloucestershire castle to his uncle Thomas Seymour, who moved here with his wife, Henry VIII's widow Katherine Parr.

The castle was renovated, but Katherine would not enjoy much time there. She died in 1538, just a week after giving birth to a daughter, Mary.

Sudeley would continue to have royal connections throughout the years. During the British Civil Wars, Charles I sought refuge here when his nephew Prince Rupert used Sudeley as a royalist base. After a parliamentary attack, the castle was destroyed so that it could no longer be used as a fortification – and it was left as a romantic ruin for nearly two centuries before being restored to the grand structure we see today. Katherine Parr is entombed in St Mary's Church, beside the castle – she is the only English queen to be buried on private land.

Two anterooms that would have led to Katherine Parr's apartments can be visited at Sudeley Castle

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2, SUDELEY CASTLE X1, DAVID FENWICK X1, PENSHURST PLACE X1

LUDLOW CASTLE SHROPSHIRE

The Welsh Marches saw disaster visited on the Tudor dynasty

The events that happened in this Welsh Marches castle would change the life of Henry VIII forever, and hold tragic memories for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. It was here that Catherine spent her first few months of marriage to Prince Arthur, during which time they both became severely ill. Catherine managed to rally but Arthur succumbed to his illness – possibly tuberculosis.

A widow after fewer than six months of marriage and aged just 16, Catherine spent more than seven years in limbo while Henry VII and her father, Ferdinand II, battled over payment of her dowry. She wrote letters to her father pleading for help as she had little money and was virtually a prisoner in a foreign country.

Eventually Catherine was married to Henry VIII. A papal dispensation was needed for the new king to marry his brother's widow, but this was granted when Catherine asserted that her marriage to Arthur was never consummated. But suspicions about their relationship at Ludlow Castle during their short marriage would come back to haunt Catherine decades later, when Henry began his search for a new wife.

Prince Arthur had been given Ludlow Castle by his father, as a place for him to continue his education as the future king

PENSHURST PLACE KENT

One of several properties given to Anne of Cleves, Penshurst also played a starring role in Henry's illicit romance with Anne Boleyn

Penshurst Place in Kent was one of the residences given to Anne of Cleves as part of her annulment settlement – a generous offering when compared to the fate of some of Henry's other wives. Anne was asked to move here, from her usual residence of Bletchingley Manor, by Edward VI's Privy Council, in 1547.

Years earlier, in 1519, Henry attended a great feast at Penshurst, held in his honour by its then owner, Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham. It's believed Stafford spent more than £1 million in today's money on the event. As a second cousin of the King and a descendant of the Plantagenet line, Stafford saw himself as a contender for the throne should the King have no male heirs. However, Stafford was executed in 1521 after being found guilty of having intentions to kill the King – and so Penshurst became part of the Crown's estates.

Henry used Penshurst as a royal hunting lodge, visiting with his friend and courtier Charles Brandon while attempting to woo Anne Boleyn – and possibly before this her sister Mary. Due to its proximity to Anne's family home, Hever Castle, Penshurst was an ideal place to conduct their courtship away from prying eyes.

Penshurst later became the property of the Sidney family, who enjoyed prominence throughout the reigns of Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I.

Penshurst's impressive Baron's Hall was completed in 1341

Penshurst Place has been used as a filming location for many Tudor films and TV shows including Wolf Hall and The Other Boleyn Girl

A CHANGING COURT

The court of Henry VIII was a centre of power, fashion and entertainment, and each queen put their stamp on proceedings

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

To be seen at court was to be at the pinnacle of Tudor society. Men jockeyed for a position to influence the King and increase their standing, while women hoped to make a good marriage and, if they were lucky – or unlucky depending on the viewpoint – catch the wandering eye of the King himself. Henry's grand palaces were the places to learn the latest gossip, admire and adopt the new fashions, flaunt wealth and status, attend jousting tournaments, and appear at dances and banquets, all in a bid to move up the social ladder.

While the court obviously gravitated around Henry VIII, it would alter with each royal wife. Every queen managed, to varying degrees, to exert their own influence on the look, feel and behaviours of the day.

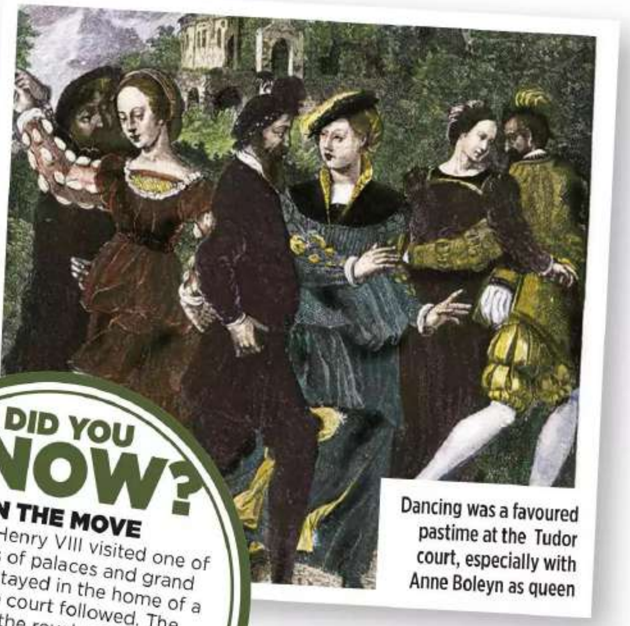
A QUEEN'S TOUCH

For the first decades of Henry's reign, with Catherine of Aragon by his side, the court was in its heyday, with the most talented poets, artists and musicians flocking to be seen at the palaces. "Henry absolutely revelled in creating an amazing Renaissance court and was desperate to make the English court more dazzling than that of his rival, Francis I of France", says historian Tracy Borman. Catherine, born in Spain, made her own mark by bringing to England several Spanish and Moorish influences, such as blackwork embroidery.

With Anne Boleyn, Henry knew his dynastic line was unstable without a male heir, so court life became more focused on propaganda and justifying his annulment to his first wife. Anne loved to dance so court was a lively place and, thanks to her time in France, filled with exotic fashions, including the French hood, a headgear softer in shape than the English version.

In sharp contrast to the lavish entertainments and extravagance of Anne Boleyn's queenship, Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, presided over a far more conservative and decorous court. And as the years went on and the King grew older, his appetite for feasting and fun may have diminished, but his starring role at court certainly did. "Henry didn't want the court to see how infirm he had become. The private Henry was very different to the public Henry," says Borman.

With the King increasingly in his private apartments, gossip and scandal became the main entertainment of the day, making court a more dangerous place to be. After two queens in quick succession, the courtiers during the time of Henry's final wife, Katherine Parr, would have found fewer pleasurable and frivolous activities. "Katherine was more interested in the court as an outlet for her intellectual pursuits, a place where she could converse with fellow radicals, read quite heretical texts and discuss the latest ideas", says Borman. "She made it a lot more intellectually vibrant. But you probably wouldn't have gone there for a good party when Katherine Parr was queen."

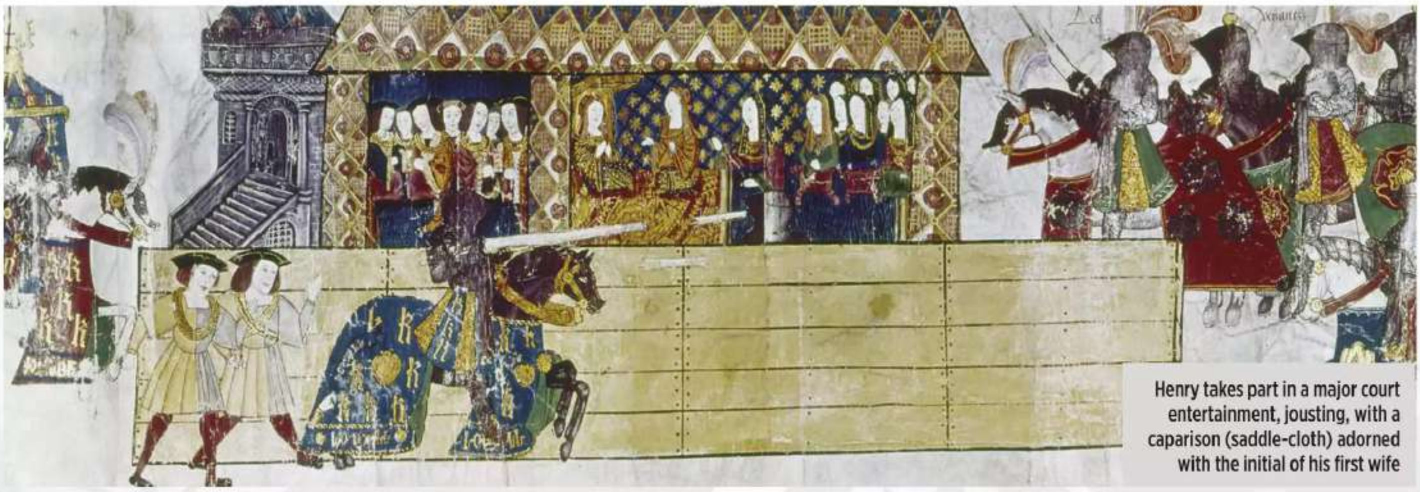


Dancing was a favoured pastime at the Tudor court, especially with Anne Boleyn as queen

DID YOU KNOW?

ON THE MOVE

Whenever Henry VIII visited one of his dozens of palaces and grand houses, or stayed in the home of a noble, the court followed. The absence of the royal retinue gave much-needed time for empty palaces to be cleaned and for attached land and livestock to recover after the demands of court life.

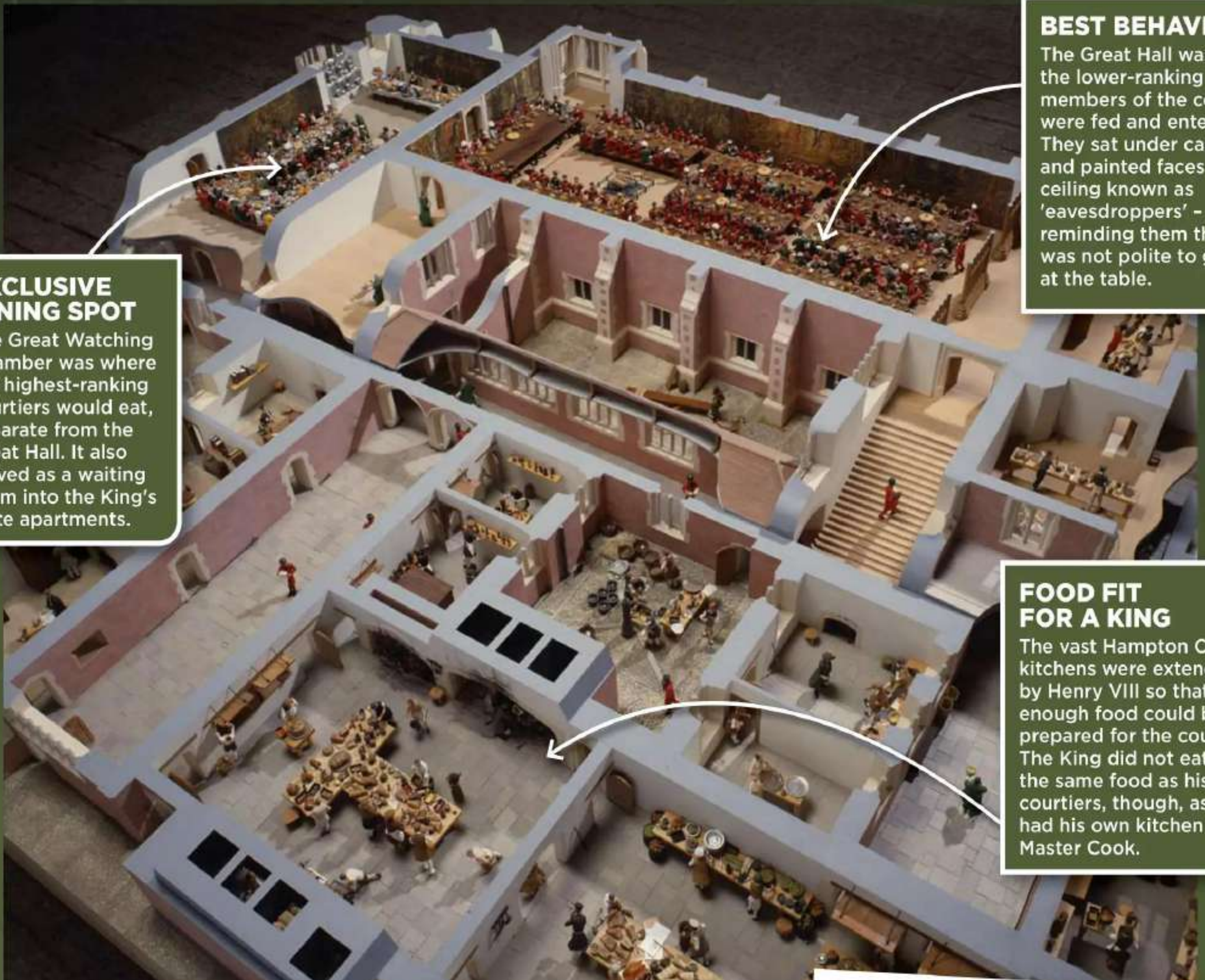


Henry takes part in a major court entertainment, jousting, with a caparison (saddle-cloth) adorned with the initial of his first wife

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X2, HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES X1

RULES OF THE FEAST

Meal times at Henry's favourite palace, Hampton Court, maintained a clear divide among the courtiers, depending on their status



BEST BEHAVIOUR
The Great Hall was where the lower-ranking members of the court were fed and entertained. They sat under carved and painted faces in the ceiling known as 'eavesdroppers' – reminding them that it was not polite to gossip at the table.

EXCLUSIVE DINING SPOT
The Great Watching Chamber was where the highest-ranking courtiers would eat, separate from the Great Hall. It also served as a waiting room into the King's state apartments.

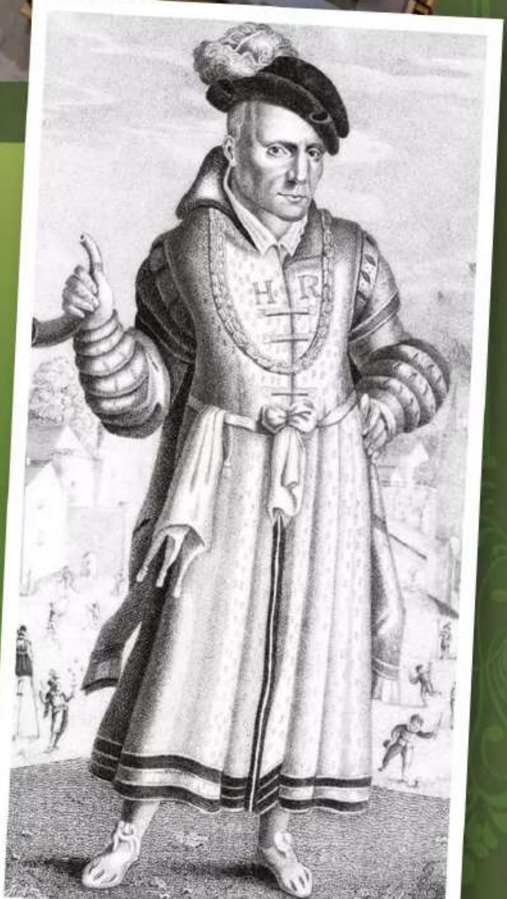
FOOD FIT FOR A KING
The vast Hampton Court kitchens were extended by Henry VIII so that enough food could be prepared for the court. The King did not eat the same food as his courtiers, though, as he had his own kitchen and Master Cook.

ACTING THE FOOL

Being a fool or jester in the court of the Tudors was a much more enviable position than may be expected

The Tudor court would not have been complete without its fools or jesters. While seemingly a lowly position – employed to entertain the court with jokes, stories and juggling acts – they actually held an advantageous position as they were permitted in the King's private apartments and could speak openly, with brutal or mocking honesty, without causing offence. Sometimes these roles were performed by witty tricksters who loved clowning around, but evidence suggests that many were 'natural fools', people we would now describe as having learning or physical disabilities.

William Somers (*right*) was a favourite fool of Henry VIII's, so much so that he reportedly had the King's ear. As Henry's painful legs and ballooning weight made him increasingly morose in his later years, it was often only Somers who could coax a smile from him. For the 12 or so years he served Henry, Somers lived well and had a keeper – suggesting that he may not have been entirely capable of looking after himself. Another favoured fool was Jane, who served in the households of Anne Boleyn, Princess Mary and Katherine Parr.



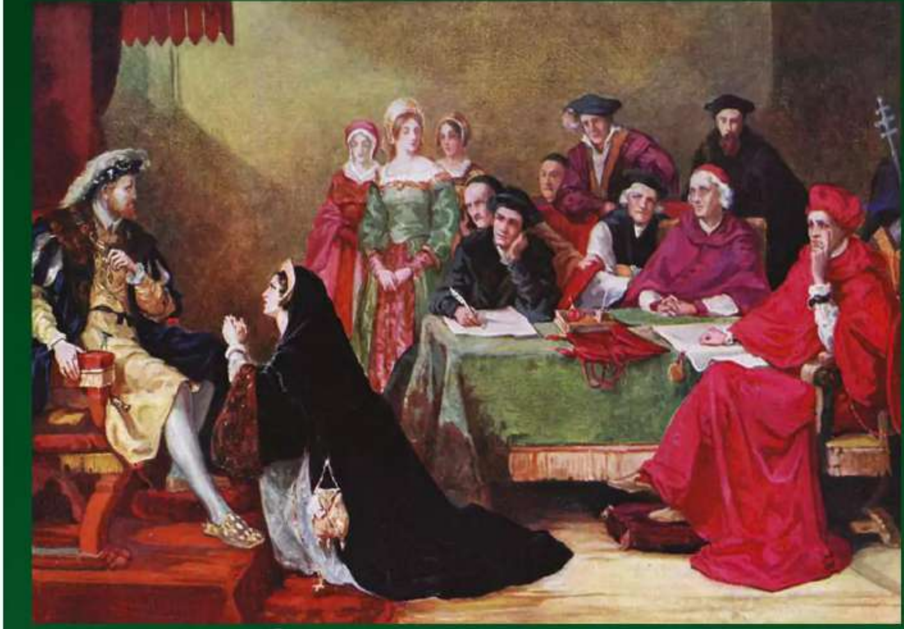
THE MYTHS OF HENRY'S WIVES

The rumour mills love the six wives, so we spoke to **Tracy Borman** to separate the fact from fiction

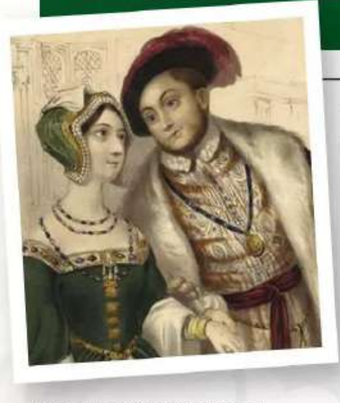
WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

THE ROYAL WEDDING NIGHT

The question of whether Catherine of Aragon consummated her first marriage with Henry VIII's elder brother, Arthur, would lead to a drawn-out divorce case as well as England's split from the Roman Catholic Church. Catherine was a devout woman and was unequivocal with her declaration of virginity when she married Henry. The royal bedchamber came under public scrutiny, with some believing that Catherine lied so she could marry Henry. Tracy Borman is inclined to believe her, while Henry was not: "He knew that Catherine was an incredibly loyal and pious wife. She wouldn't easily risk her salvation by telling a lie and saying that her marriage to Arthur hadn't been consummated. But Henry became increasingly convinced of that because it suited him."



No amount of pleading would convince Henry VIII to change his mind



Was Jane Seymour the love of Henry's life, or just a safe bet?

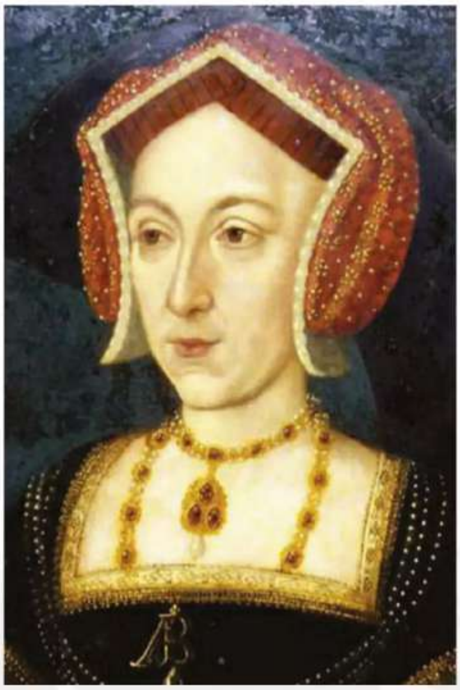
LOVED BEST OF ALL

Jane Seymour is often described as Henry's true love, the woman who tragically died after giving the king his longed-for son. Not so, says Tracy Borman, who suggests that Henry saw Jane as a traditional and meek woman, and a safe option: "I think Jane's role has been overplayed. She was the opposite of feisty Anne Boleyn and that's what Henry wanted. But within weeks of their marriage Henry was commenting that there were more attractive women at court he could have married. It was simply the fact that Jane gave Henry a son that set her above the other wives."

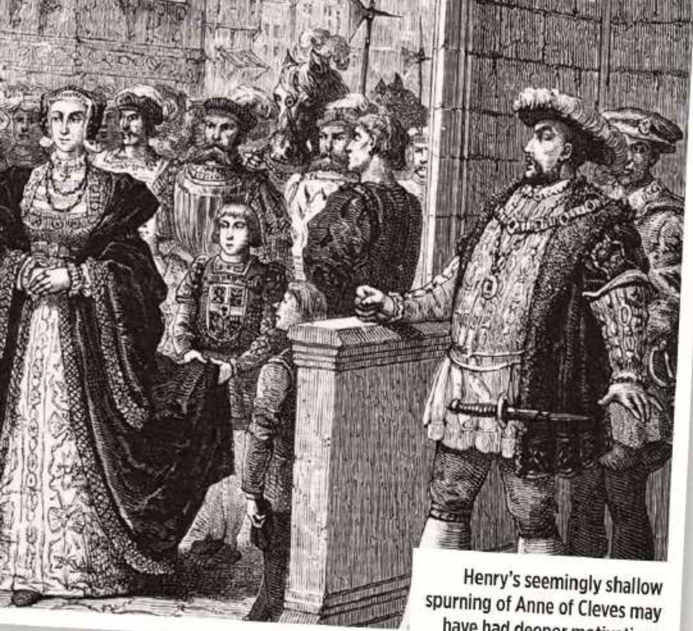
THE SEDUCTIVE WITCH

With the King seemingly spellbound by Anne Boleyn, rumours spread that she was a witch who seduced the King, that she had six fingers and may have even have had a hand in the death of her predecessor.

Some stories about Anne would not appear until many years after her death – put forward by Catholic propagandists attempting to sully the reputation of her daughter, Elizabeth I – but the idea that she had a sixth finger may have had a small basis in fact. "There is a fairly reliable account that suggests Anne, if anything, may have had an extra nail on the side of one of her little fingers," says Borman. "After her last miscarriage, in 1536, there were also rumours that the baby had had some sort of deformity, which many of Anne's enemies used as proof of witchcraft. In reality, this theory may have been due to a lack of understanding of foetal development."



A portrait said to have been of Anne Boleyn – the only undisputed likeness of Boleyn is on a lead medal

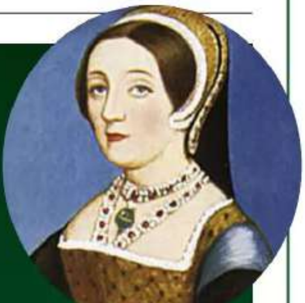


Henry's seemingly shallow spurning of Anne of Cleves may have had deeper motivations

THE FLANDERS MARE

Everyone knows the story of Anne of Cleves – apparently not attractive enough for the King and so unappealing that he sought an annulment almost straight away. Yet it's possible that his decision was less about looks and more about her lack of accomplishments and conversational skills: "Anne wasn't ugly," says Borman. "It was more that she lacked the courtly refinements Henry expected in a royal wife. The German customs for ladies were very different to English ones. And that's what turned Henry off. "

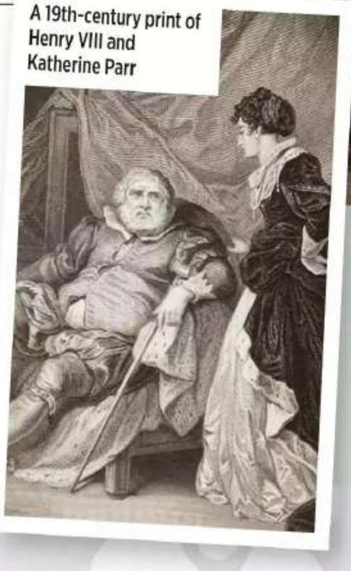
THE FLIGHTY ADULTERESS



Catherine Howard (*inset*) is often painted as a lusty and naive adulteress. Borman sees this as unfair: "She was really the victim of what we would now call child abuse, starting at the age of just 13 when she had a relationship with her music teacher." Her affair with the courtier Thomas Culpeper, too, may not have been all it seemed, with Borman suggesting that while they almost certainly had a physical relationship, it is possible that Howard felt threatened by Culpeper and was trying to keep him happy.

NURSE KATHERINE

The wife who survived Henry, Katherine Parr has often been cast in the role of nurse to the by then aged and infirm king. However, Borman sees her in a different light: "Katherine was a firebrand; a great intellectual, really strident and with controversial views on religion. Her intellect challenged the King but she cleverly knew when to play the compliant wife. Henry was very fond of her." ⊙



A 19th-century print of Henry VIII and Katherine Parr

GET HOOKED

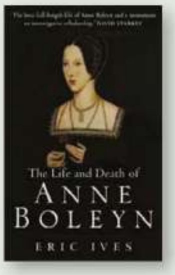
If we've whetted your appetite for all things Tudor, why not explore the topic further with our selection of books, films and podcasts?

BOOKS

The Private Lives of the Tudors

By Tracy Borman
(Hodder & Stoughton, 2016)

Take an intimate look behind the closed doors of one of the most celebrated royal dynasties and discover previously unexamined details about the characters we think we know so well – from Henry VII's grief at the death of his son, Arthur, to the tragic secret behind 'Bloody' Mary's phantom pregnancies.



The Life and Death of Anne Boleyn: The Most Happy

By Eric Ives
(Wiley-Blackwell, 2004)

Focusing on Anne's life and legacy, the late Eric Ives establishes Anne as a figure of considerable importance and influence in her own right. Adulteress or innocent victim? Look afresh at the issues at the heart of Anne's dramatic downfall.

The Six Wives & Many Mistresses of Henry VIII: The Women's Stories

By Amy Licence
(Amberley Publishing, 2014)

Amy Licence readdresses the experiences of Henry VIII's wives and mistresses in this frank, modern take on the affairs of his heart. What was it really like to be Mrs Henry VIII?

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **The Hidden Henry** *(BBC Sounds):* Five academics present portraits of unknown, intimate and surprising aspects of Henry VIII's character. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/b00kj03k*

History Extra ▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes and more on the Tudors, visit the Tudor hub on our website: *historyextra.com/period/tudor***

WATCH

Henry VIII and His Six Wives

(Channel 5) *https://bit.ly/2Gzd9PY*

Historians Dan Jones and Suzannah Lipscomb take a closer look at Henry VIII's six marriages, chronicling the King's turbulent private life and how it shaped England.

Six Wives with Lucy Worsley

(Available on Amazon Prime)

Lucy Worsley revisits key events in the lives of Henry VIII's six wives, revealing how each attempted to exert influence on the King and the Tudor court.

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1, CHANNEL 5 X1, BBC X1

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GETTY IMAGES

BBC TWO

Accompanies the BBC series *Royal History's Biggest Fibs*

LUCY WORSLEY ON ROYAL SECRETS & LIES

How much of what we *think* we know about history's big events are actually true? We spoke to **Lucy Worsley** to find out...

INTERVIEW BY CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

Historian Lucy Worsley gets into character as much maligned French queen Marie Antoinette

BBC STUDIOS

Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO INVESTIGATING SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS AND INACCURACIES OF ROYAL HISTORY?

A: I've made some other programmes along the lines of 'history's biggest fibs', and what I like about the subject is that it's not just about what happened; it's about the skills a historian needs to assess the evidence and establish the truth of what actually happened – if that is ever possible. So it's not just about the past; but the practice of history as well.

Revolutions against monarchies have historically provided some intense storytelling, fake news, and, well, just plain fibbing, and that's because the way you win a revolution is to tell the best story. So revolutions seem to be the essence of this idea of royal history's biggest fibs.

Q: ONE EVENT YOU REASSESS IS THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, SPECIFICALLY THE ROLE OF MARIE ANTOINETTE. WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?

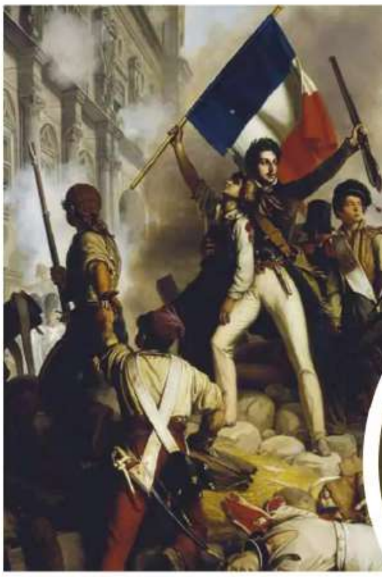
A: Marie Antoinette is one of those people about whom British people feel a sense of sympathy, but who is still widely hated by the French, and that's because they've been taught to do so by the French revolutionaries. Yet from our perspective, you can see that, as a female and a foreigner, Marie Antoinette was a fantastic scapegoat for all the troubles the French monarchy was going through.

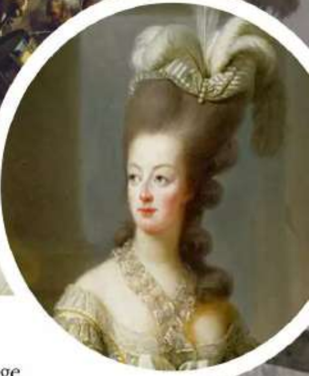
Q: WHY DID THE FRENCH PEOPLE FOCUS ON MARIE ANTOINETTE RATHER THAN THE KING HIMSELF?

A: It was partly because, in the 18th century, it was difficult to reconcile your belief in the divine authority of your king with the knowledge that actually he's not that good at his job. And this is an issue that goes back centuries: you don't blame your king, you blame his 'evil councillors'. In the case of Marie Antoinette, she had to face the added negativity of being from Austria, an ancient enemy of France.

But there was also someone missing from court during Marie Antoinette's reign, and that was a royal mistress. Louis XVI didn't have one. So a lot of the negativity that would usually have been directed at a hated mistress – for being frivolous, for wearing expensive jewels, or getting involved in politics – instead found an outlet in the queen, Marie Antoinette.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE ROLE OF AMERICA IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?





ABOVE: **The history of the French Revolution is awash with lies and misinformation**

RIGHT: **Did Marie Antoinette really cause all of France's financial woes?**

A: Well, the traditional story is that France's huge debts were down to the Queen and her huge extravagance. But when I spoke to the curator of the Palace of Versailles, he explained that the debts of the French state were actually caused by the American War of Independence. France had been financially supporting the Americans against the British and racking up huge debts. That was the crunch that really created the circumstances in which revolution in France began to seem like a good idea.

"It's not just about what happened, it's about the skills a historian needs to assess the evidence and establish the truth"

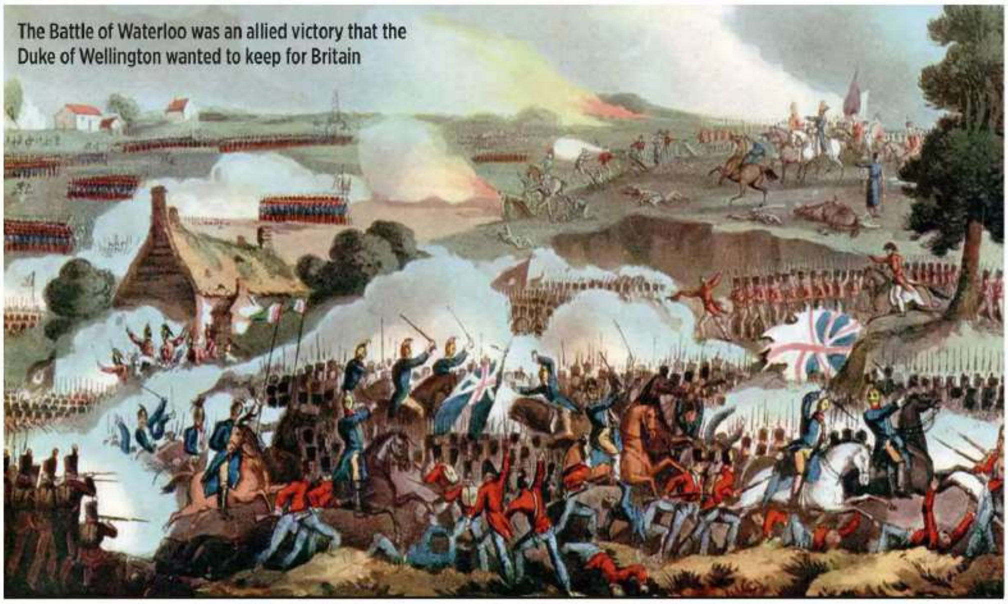
Q: DID PEOPLE QUESTION EVENTS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THEM AT THE TIME THEY WERE HAPPENING?

A: This is really the kind of essence of politics – who's on side and who isn't – and how change spreads through groups of people. In the second episode, we look at why there wasn't a revolution in Britain during the late Georgian period, when you really might have expected there to have been one given the chaos and financial catastrophes of the Napoleonic Wars.

Even so, there were the seeds of discontent being sown that would later lead to revolutions. It just takes a few people in the moment to have a really strong view that something is wrong. And it might take a long time for their cause to be won – such as the fight for Catholic Emancipation during the early part of George IV's reign – but it can win.

Q: MOST PEOPLE HAVE GROWN UP WITH THE IDEA THAT THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO WAS A BRITISH VICTORY. WAS THIS THE CASE?

A: It depends on your perspective. If you were the Duke of Wellington then yes, it was totally a British victory. But if you



The Battle of Waterloo was an allied victory that the Duke of Wellington wanted to keep for Britain

GETTY IMAGES X3, BBC STUDIOS X2

The genteel appearance of the Regency period belies its revolutionary undercurrent, says Lucy Worsley

were the Duke of Wellington's European allies, then you might get rather annoyed by that statement.

The European allies referred to the battle as the Belle Alliance and saw it as a European collaboration, but from the earliest dispatch sent back to Britain after the battle, Wellington was calling it the Battle of Waterloo after the place it was fought, playing down the collaborative nature of the victory.

There's an incredibly detailed model of the battlefield as it looked at 7.45pm on 18 June 1815 at the National Army Museum, London, built by Lieutenant William Siborne in the 1830s. When Siborne asked for funding for the work, he was effectively told by Wellington that he would get no money from Britain because he had placed too many Prussians on the battlefield. At a time when Britain had been shaken by revolutions in France and the Napoleonic Wars, it was extremely important for Wellington – and George IV, another character we look at in the series – to claim Waterloo as a British victory. ⊙

Lucy Worsley channels George IV in her latest series, which explores the real history of the Battle of Waterloo

GET HOOKED

WATCH

BBC TWO The new series of *Royal History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley* is due to air on BBC Two in November

WOMEN OF PROTEST!

For centuries, women have taken to the streets to fight discrimination, instigate change, and make their voices heard. Here are ten remarkable examples

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

Suffragettes parade through the streets of Washington, DC, in 1913

19TH CENTURY – PRESENT: THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

The right of women, by law, to vote in national and local elections has been a topic of discussion since ancient times. But serious campaigning for female suffrage in the modern world can really be seen to have begun in the late-19th century, with New Zealand, in 1893, becoming the first self-governing country in the world to give all women the right to vote in parliamentary elections. The fight by suffrage campaigners in New Zealand, such as Kate Sheppard, inspired women across the world to take up the fight in their own countries.

In Britain, late 19th-century parliamentary reforms, which had given more men the right to vote, yet rejected petitions to enfranchise women at the same time, led to the creation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), which boasted more than 50,000 members. Years of non-violent campaigning ensued under the leadership of Millicent Garrett Fawcett, including lobbying MPs, petitions to parliament, marches and protests. But with their pleas falling on deaf ears, many women became frustrated at seemingly fruitless peaceful tactics and decided to take more direct action. And so the Suffragettes were born in the form of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), led by Manchester suffragist Emmeline Pankhurst with her daughters, Christabel, Sylvia and Adela, under the motto 'Deeds Not Words'. From around 1905, a new strand of the women's suffrage movement grew and demonstrations became increasingly angry, with window smashing, hunger strikes, arson attacks and even bombing deployed by militant suffragettes. Ultimately, it was the essential work of women in World War I that proved to be the catalyst for change, and in 1918, some 8.5 million women (over the age of 30 who met a property qualification) were granted the right to vote. It would not be until 1928, however, that all British women over the age of 21 became enfranchised.

Between 1893 and 1960, 129 countries and territories granted women the right to vote, including the US (in 1920, following ratification of the 19th Amendment). Black and Asian women in the US were still subject to discriminatory voting laws, however, which persisted until the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In Australia, Indigenous women were not enfranchised until 1962, while black women in South Africa had to wait until 1993 and the end of Apartheid – more than 60 years after white South African women were granted voting rights. The most recent country to grant women the right to vote (in local elections since the country has no national elections) was Saudi Arabia, in 2015. ▶

A suffragette is arrested outside Buckingham Palace in 1914. Many suffragettes were subjected to appalling treatment whilst imprisoned, including forcible feeding, violence and abuse

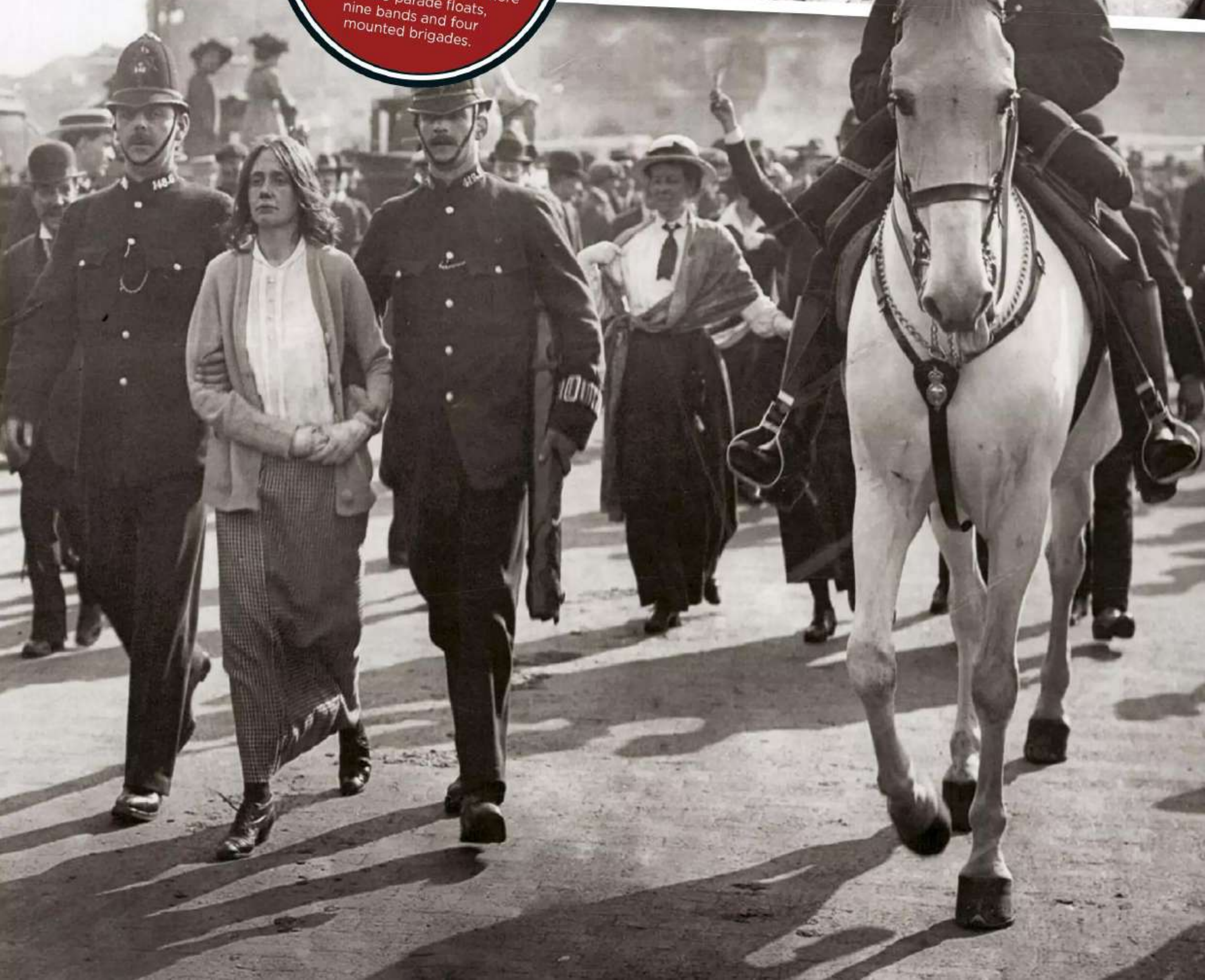
GETTY IMAGES X3

Women prepare to cast their votes at a polling station in Delhi, India, in March 1958. Universal suffrage was granted in India in 1950, in the wake of Indian independence

DID YOU KNOW?

MAKE SOME NOISE

Washington, DC, saw its first suffrage parade on 3 March 1913. Mounted on horses, activists Alice Paul and Inez Milholland led more than 5,000 women up Pennsylvania Avenue, accompanied by more than 20 parade floats, nine bands and four mounted brigades.

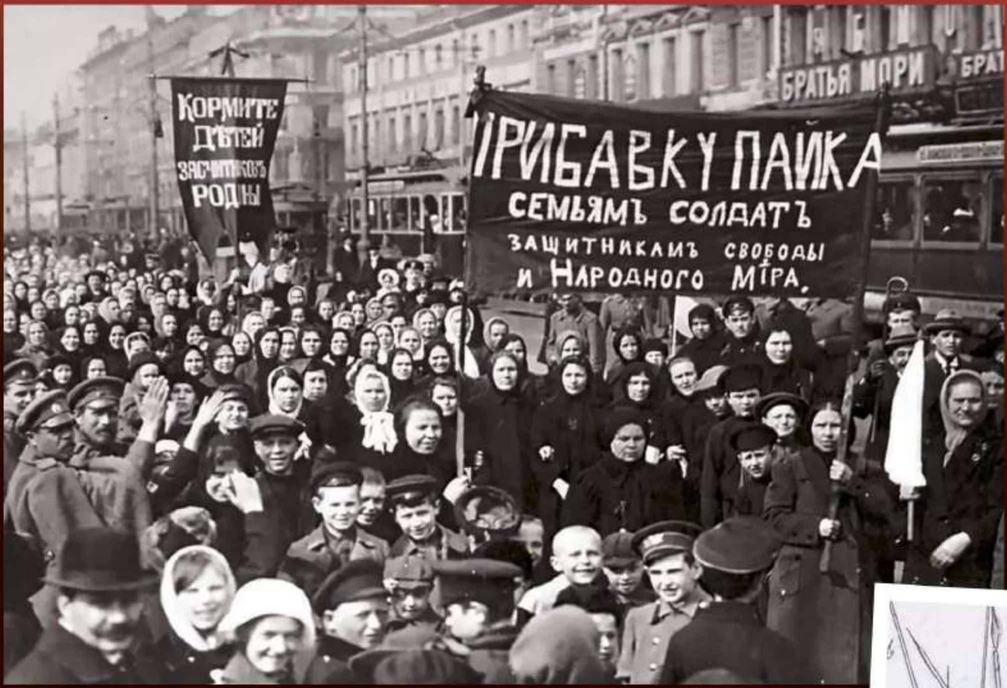


1929: ABA WOMEN'S WAR, NIGERIA

▼ From November–December 1929, some 25,000 women in the provinces of Calabar and Owerri in southeastern Nigeria rebelled against oppressive policies introduced by British colonial administrators, including a new market tax. The women attacked European-owned stores and Native Courts run by colonial officials, and in some areas forced British-imposed 'warrant chiefs' to resign. But they faced brutal retaliation from colonial troops, with more than 50 women killed and dozens more injured. The uprising is widely considered to be one of the first major challenges to British authority in West Africa during the colonial period, and many of the proposed plans were dropped as a result, including the market tax.

1888: MATCHGIRLS' STRIKE

▲ In 1888, with the support of socialist activists, some 200 girls at London's Bryant & May factory downed tools in protest against work conditions and meagre pay. They were joined by 1,200 more workers and the company eventually conceded to their demands promising, among other things, to abolish fines and wage deductions and introduce a breakfast room.

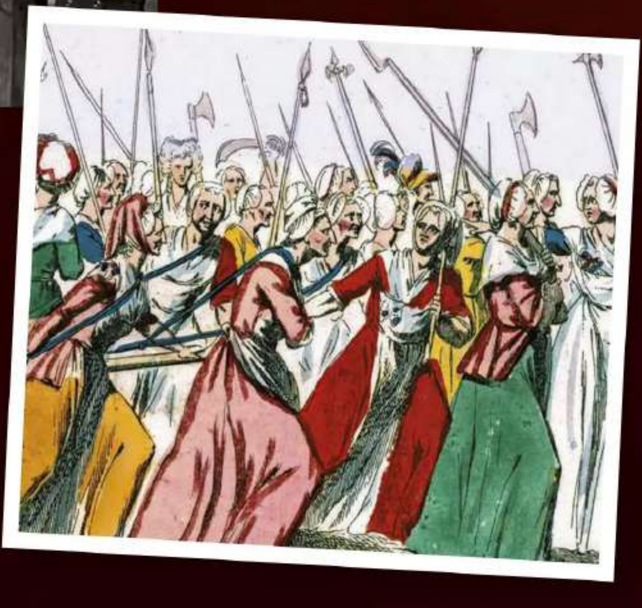

КОРМИТЕ ДѢТЕЙ ЗАЩИТНИКОВЪ РОДИНЫ
ПРИБАВКУ ПАЙКА СЕМЬЯМЪ СОЛДАТЪ ЗАЩИТНИКАМЪ СВОБОДЫ И НАРОДНОГО МІРА
БРАТЬЯ МОРИ

1917: PUTILOV STRIKE, RUSSIA

▲ On 8 March 1917, International Women's Day (23 February in the old Russian calendar), groups of (mainly) women began gathering on Nevsky Prospekt in the Russian capital of Petrograd. By midday, numbers had swelled to tens of thousands, many clutching homemade banners demanding change. The afternoon saw them joined by female textile workers who had gone on strike in protest against bread shortages, and by late afternoon, some 100,000 people – including men – had joined the strike. The following day, as many as 150,000 people took to the streets, some looting, overturning trams or fighting police; others simply marching for change. After a rally in Znamenskaya Square, where speeches called for an end to the monarchy, the crowds finally dispersed. But the demonstration, led initially by women, had sown the seeds of the Russian Revolution.

1789: WOMEN'S MARCH ON VERSAILLES

▼ One of the earliest events of the French Revolution, the Women's March started in the marketplaces of Paris in protest against the scarcity, and escalating cost, of bread. Before long, thousands of women brandishing weapons were en route to the Palace of Versailles, determined to force Louis XVI back to Paris. The King heard their grievances but, unconvinced, some of those in the crowd besieged the palace and nearly captured Marie Antoinette. The siege only ended when the King agreed to move the royal court back to the city.

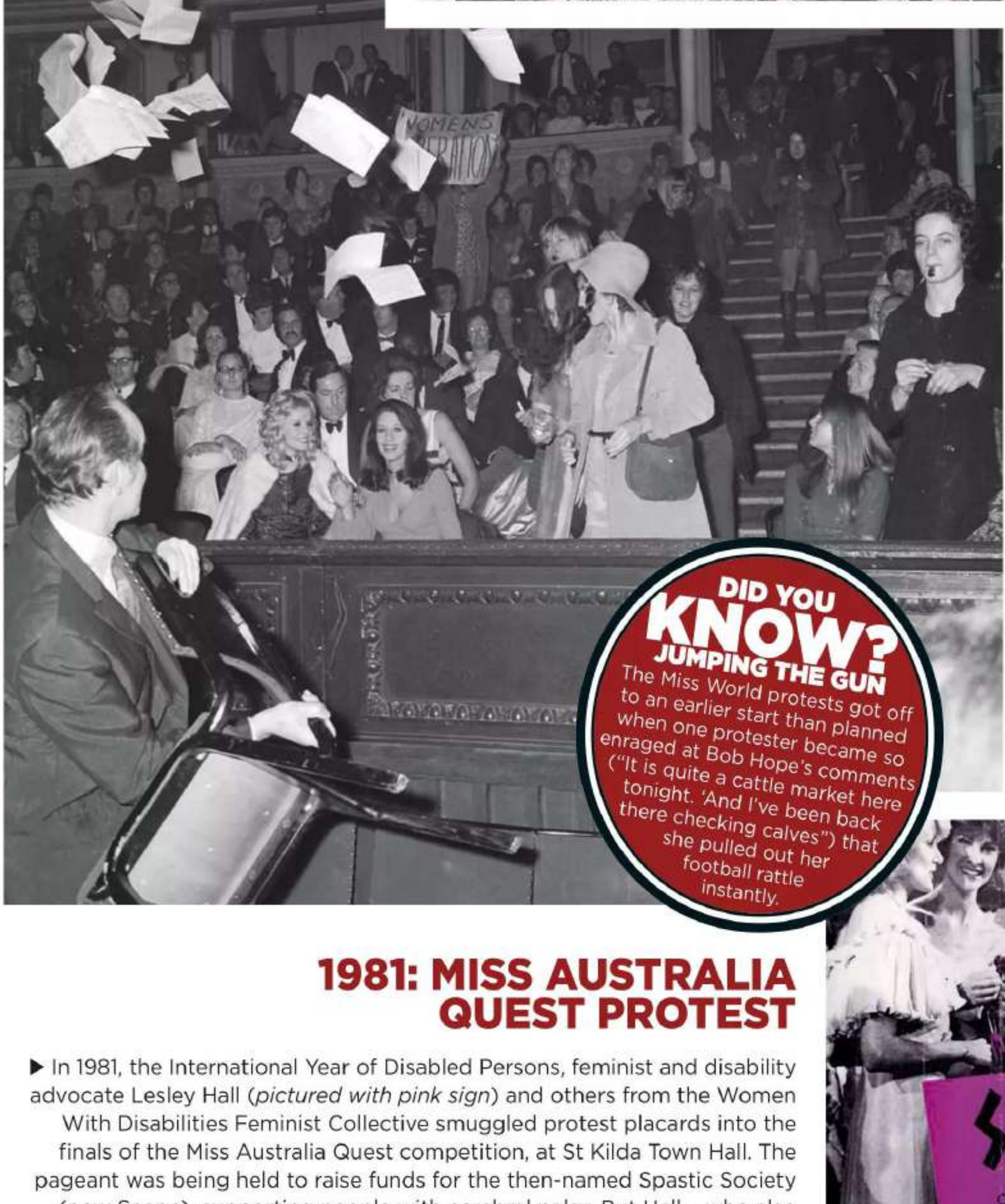


GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X3, FRANK HALL-BENTICK X1, BAILEYS ARCHIVE X2

1956: WOMEN'S MARCH, PRETORIA

▶ *"Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo*!" ("You strike a woman, you strike a rock"), sung 20,000 South African women of all races and backgrounds in unison. Gathered outside the headquarters of the South African Government, in Pretoria, the demonstration, on 9 August 1956, protested against the compulsory carrying of passes by black women, which controlled and limited where they could travel and prevented them from finding better-paid work in the city. "We shall not rest until we have won for our children their fundamental rights of freedom, justice, and security" declared the petition presented to government.

Some 20,000 women made their voices heard as a petition was brought to South Africa's government buildings



1970: MISS WORLD PROTEST

◀ The 20th Miss World beauty pageant was thrown into disarray in 1970 when women's liberation protesters stormed the Royal Albert Hall in London, where 58 women were competing for the Miss World title. The 100 million viewers (22 million in the UK alone) watching the event on TV screens across the world could only gape as host Bob Hope was pelted with rotten fruit and vegetables, flour and stink bombs. As well as objecting to the idea of women being judged solely on their looks, the protesters also wanted to draw attention to the multinational companies and press who supported the competition. The protesters were each fined around £1,500 in today's money and some spent a night in the cells; the BBC stopped broadcasting the event in the 1980s.

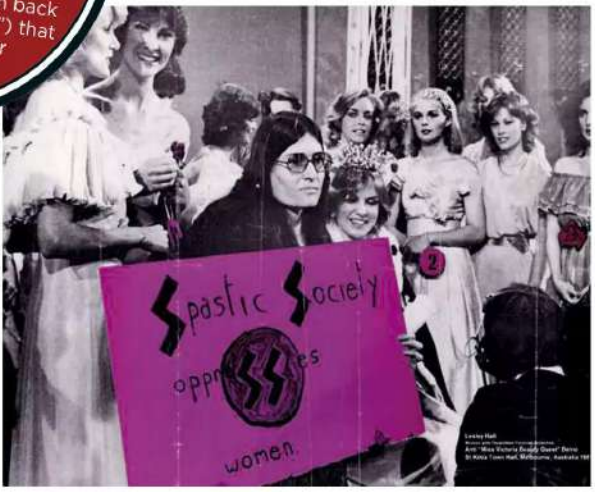
DID YOU KNOW?

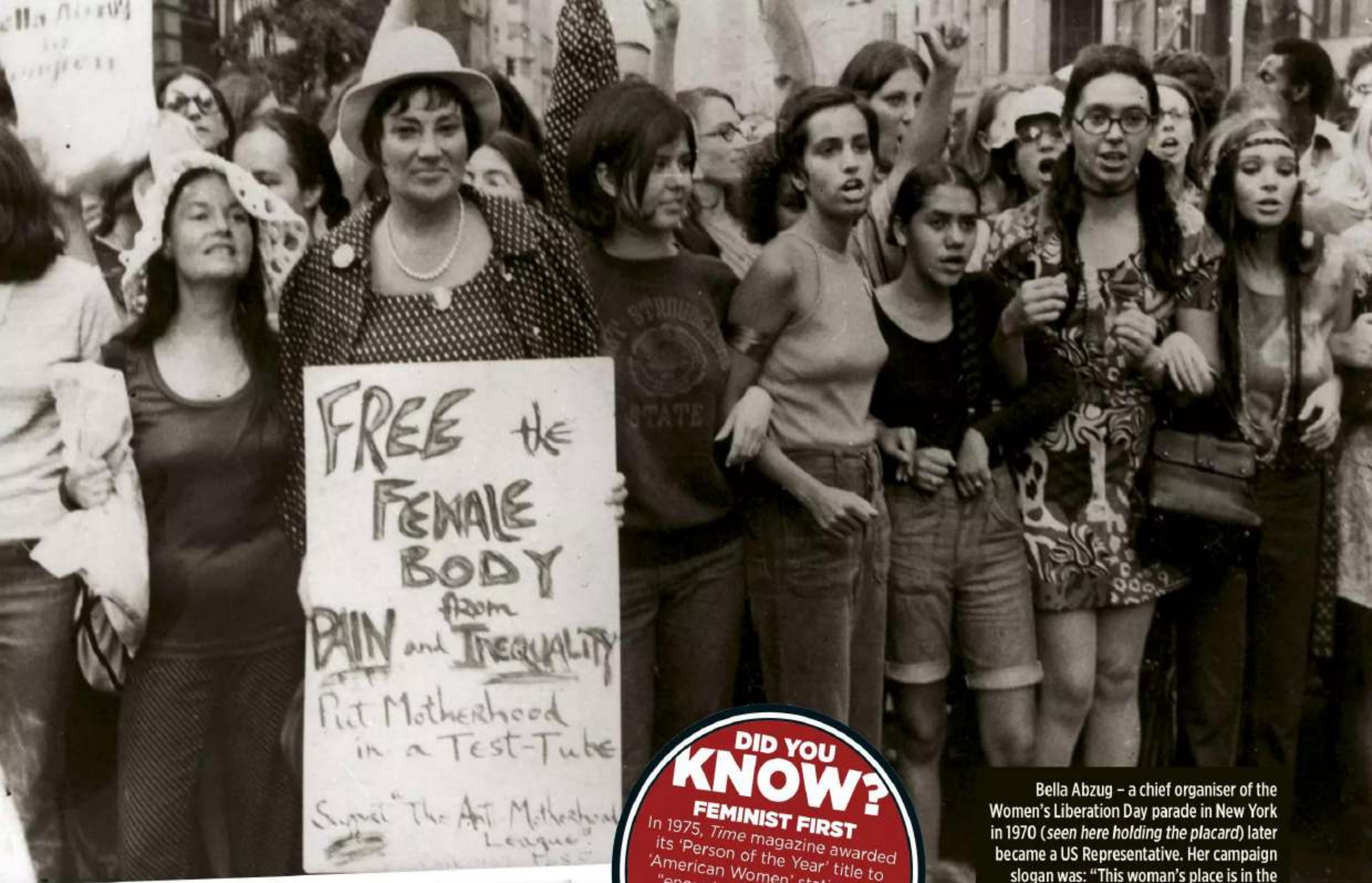
JUMPING THE GUN

The Miss World protests got off to an earlier start than planned when one protester became so enraged at Bob Hope's comments ("It is quite a cattle market here tonight. 'And I've been back there checking calves") that she pulled out her football rattle instantly.

1981: MISS AUSTRALIA QUEST PROTEST

▶ In 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, feminist and disability advocate Lesley Hall (*pictured with pink sign*) and others from the Women With Disabilities Feminist Collective smuggled protest placards into the finals of the Miss Australia Quest competition, at St Kilda Town Hall. The pageant was being held to raise funds for the then-named Spastic Society (now Scope), supporting people with cerebral palsy. But Hall – who also lived with a mobility-limiting condition – and her co-campaigners stormed the stage to protest against the stigmatisation of people with disabilities, none of whom were represented at such beauty pageants.


Spastic Society
oppresses
women
2
Lesley Hall
Anti "Miss Victoria Beauty Quest" Demo
St Kilda Town Hall, Melbourne, Australia


FREE the
FEMALE
BODY
from
PAIN and INEQUALITY
Put Motherhood
in a Test-Tube
Support "The Anti Motherhood League"

Bella Abzug – a chief organiser of the Women's Liberation Day parade in New York in 1970 (*seen here holding the placard*) later became a US Representative. Her campaign slogan was: "This woman's place is in the House—the House of Representatives"

DID YOU KNOW?

FEMINIST FIRST

In 1975, *Time* magazine awarded its 'Person of the Year' title to 'American Women' stating that "enough US women have so deliberately taken possession of their lives that the event is spiritually equivalent to the discovery of a new continent."

FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND!
WOMENS LIBERATION SUPPORTERS OF THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CANDIDATES!

Protestors for women's rights march down Fifth Avenue in New York in 1970

1960s–80s WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

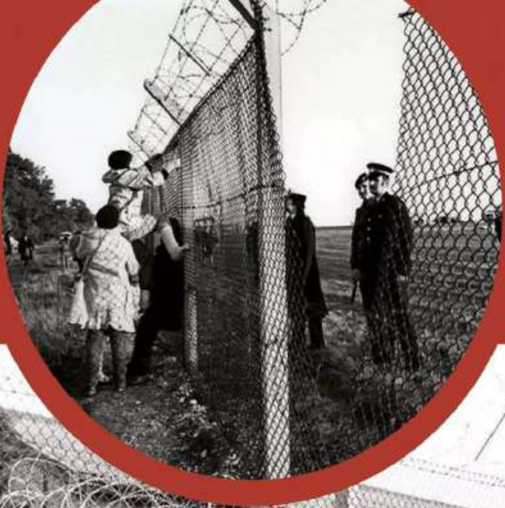
▶ The Women's Liberation Movement emerged in the 1960s – predominately in the West – during a period of rapid social and cultural change, and campaigned on a range of issues affecting women – from the objectification of and violence against women, to equal pay, reproductive and abortion rights and sex-based discrimination. A host of methods – both legal and illegal – were used to raise awareness of the issues at the heart of the movement, and to demand social and legal change – including protest marches, 'die-ins', letter writing, flour bombing, as well as supporting women at a grass roots level in consciousness-raising groups.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

WE REPRESENT BLACK & THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S THE MOST EXPLOITED & OPPRESSED IN THE HUMAN RACE.
THIRD WORLD WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

The Third World Women's Alliance was an organisation with its roots in the Civil Rights Movement, another branch of activism, which reached its zenith in the late 1960s

LEFT: **Protests at RAF Greenham Common included women chaining themselves to the fences, and also cutting them down**



BELOW: **A woman demonstrator is arrested as a friend pleads for her release**

1980s: GREENHAM COMMON

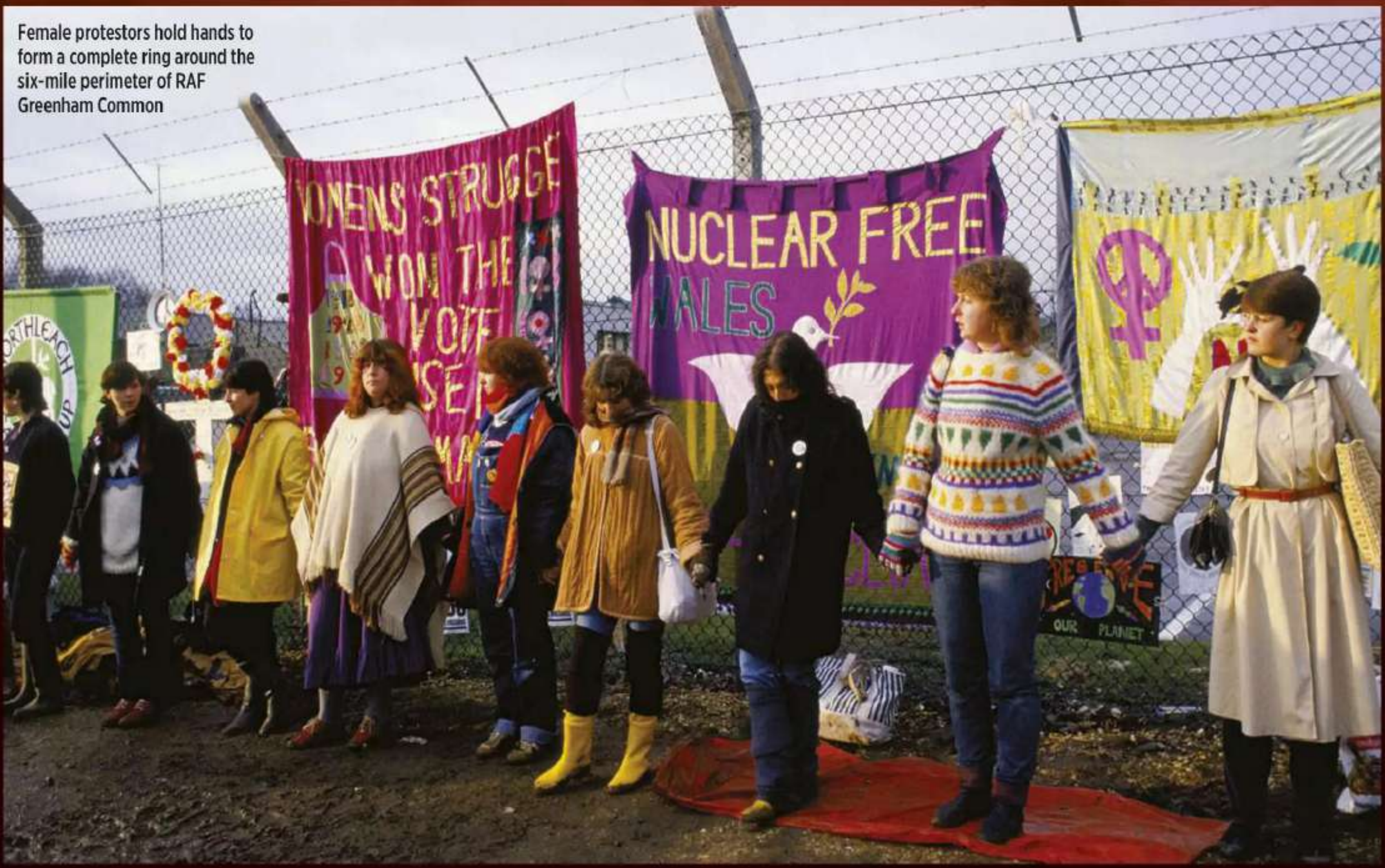
◀ In September 1981, the Welsh group 'Women for Life on Earth' arrived at Greenham Common, Berkshire, to protest against the decision to site 96 Cruise nuclear missiles there. When attempts to discuss the decision were ignored, they set up camp outside the fence surrounding RAF Greenham Common airbase. The Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was born. For the next 19 years, women occupied the camp 24 hours a day, in all weathers, and without electricity or running water. One of the biggest events held at the site took place in December 1982, when more than 30,000 women joined hands around the base. The missiles were removed between 1989 and 1991, but the Peace Camp remained as a protest against nuclear weapons; the last women left in September 2000. ⊙

GET HOOKED

WATCH

Miss World 1970: Beauty Queens and Bedlam and *Mrs. America* – both available on BBC iPlayer

Female protestors hold hands to form a complete ring around the six-mile perimeter of RAF Greenham Common



WHAT IF... THE GUNPOWDER PLOT SUCCEEDED?

Jonny Wilkes talks to **Dr John Cooper** about life in the wake of total parliamentary destruction and the impact of a Catholic England on New World exploration

The state opening of Parliament on 5 November 1605 was going to be a grand event of pomp, ceremony and a who's who of the English establishment. King James VI and I would attend with his queen and eldest son, his heir Henry, while ministers, MPs, bishops, judges and the bulk of the aristocracy would fill the building – all gathered in one space, not knowing that underneath them sat up to 36 barrels of gunpowder, smuggled in as part of a Catholic plot. The man tasked with lighting the fuse was Guy Fawkes, who would flee just in time to watch from a safe distance as the monarchy, aristocracy and church went up in smoke.

Catholics in Protestant England had faced persecution for decades: unable to worship, placed under surveillance, and at risk of imprisonment or execution. Hopes of greater toleration rose when James VI of Scotland came to the throne of England as James I in 1603, only to sink when the new king offered few concessions. A number of plots formed, all thwarted in infancy except for the conspiracy to blow up Parliament, led by recusant Catholic Robert Catesby.

From their first meeting in May 1604, the plotters faced the immense challenges of keeping plans secret until the state opening, scheduled for early 1605, and planting the gunpowder. "The original aim was to tunnel from an adjacent house, but foundation walls were thick and progress slow," says Dr John Cooper, Reader in Early Modern History at the University of York and consultant on the 2017 BBC One series *Gunpowder*, which dramatised the plot. "The postponement of the opening to November 1605 gave the plotters time to formulate a new plan: the barrels could be stored in a vault, which they rented," says Cooper.

The final details were arranged in October after Fawkes, the explosives man, had moved three dozen barrels, ready for 5 November. If he had managed to get through the night, light the fuse and escape across the Thames, the explosion would have been devastating. The Houses of Lords and Commons, Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey would be destroyed or severely damaged, and people from all parts of the establishment killed, including the King and his heir.

AFTER THE BLAST

With the government in disarray and chaos, the London-based plotters would have immediately rushed to secure the most strategic stronghold in the city, the Tower of London, while others, Catesby among them, in Northamptonshire would launch a simultaneous plan to kidnap the King's surviving daughter, the nine-year-old Elizabeth. The Catholics planned to declare her queen as part of a "puppet regime", as Cooper says. "Probably the plotters envisaged key roles in this Catholic government, in a purged privy council or at the royal court."

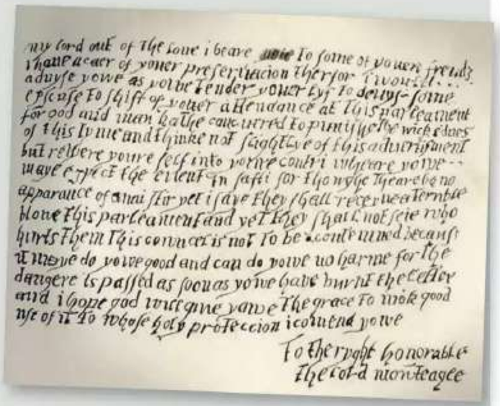
Elizabeth, as a child, would have needed a regent. Henry Percy, Catholic sympathiser and Earl of Northumberland, was a likely choice as he was a relative of a plotter, Thomas Percy. Under his guardianship, the young queen could be married off to a Catholic prince and her government would be driven towards re-establishing Catholicism in England. As for James's other son, the infant Charles, he too would be taken into custody to ensure the Protestants had no royal figurehead for a potential retaliation.

For the plot to have any chance of long-term success, Catholics from around the country needed to rally to the cause. As Cooper says, this was the biggest unknown of all: "Some would have supported a successful coup,

IN CONTEXT

In 1604, a band of English Roman Catholics swore an oath in the Duck and Drake Inn, London, to a conspiracy to blow up the Houses of Parliament with King James VI and I inside, and so destroy the Protestant establishment and restore their religion. They managed to smuggle barrels of gunpowder into the cellars underneath the House of Lords, ready for the state opening on 5 November 1605.

In the week before, however, an anonymous letter was sent to Lord Monteagle warning him not to attend parliament that day. The King was told and extra searches ordered. One of the plotters, Guy Fawkes, was discovered guarding up to 36 barrels of gunpowder. Tortured for days, he gave his confession and the names of his fellow conspirators, all of whom were killed or caught. Fawkes only escaped the full horrors of being hanged, drawn and quartered by jumping from the gallows' scaffold and breaking his neck.

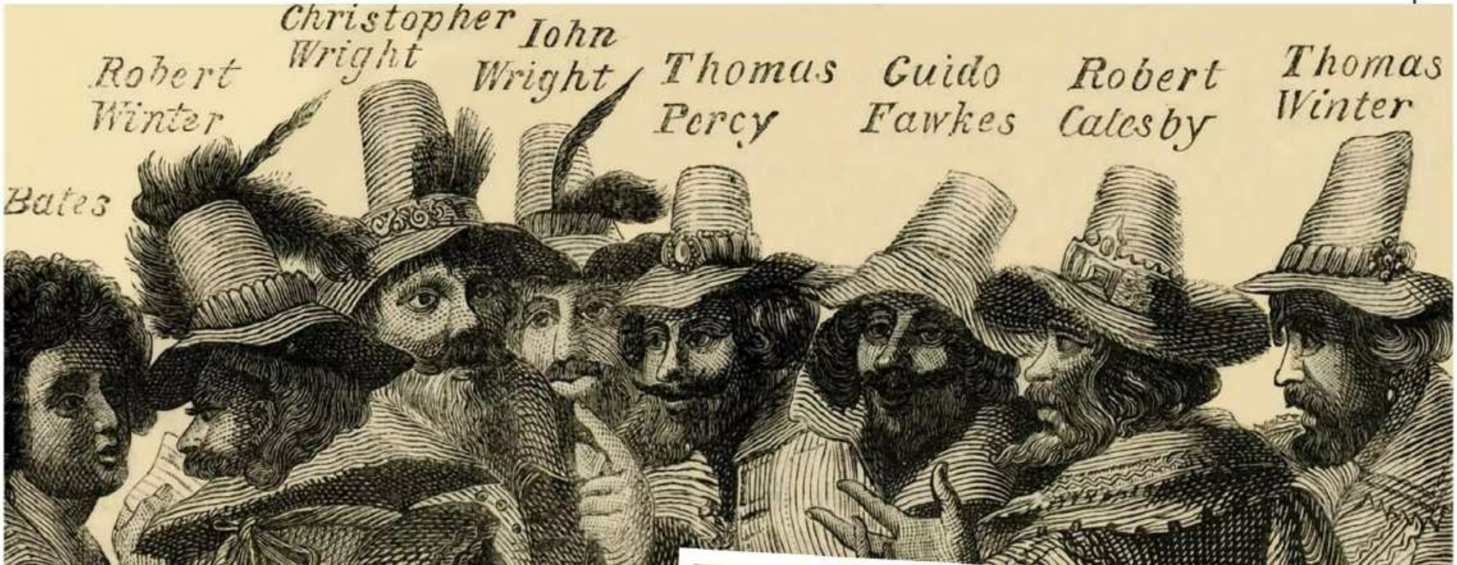


my lord out of the love i beare [illegible] to some of youere frends
i have a caer of youer preservacion therfor i would
advyse yowe as yowe tender youer lyf to devyse some
excuse to shift of youer attendance at this parleament
for god and man hathe concurred to punishe the wickednes
of this tyme and thinke not slightlye of this advertisment
but retyere youre self into youre contri wheare yowe
maye expect the event in safti for thowghe theare be no
apparance of anni stir yet i saye they shall receyve a terrible
blowe this parleament and yet they shall not seie who
hurts them this cowncel is not to be contemned because
it maye do yowe good and can do yowe no harme for the
dangere is passed as soonas yowe have burnt the letter
and i hope god will give yowe the grace to mak good
use of it to whose holy proteccion icomend yowe

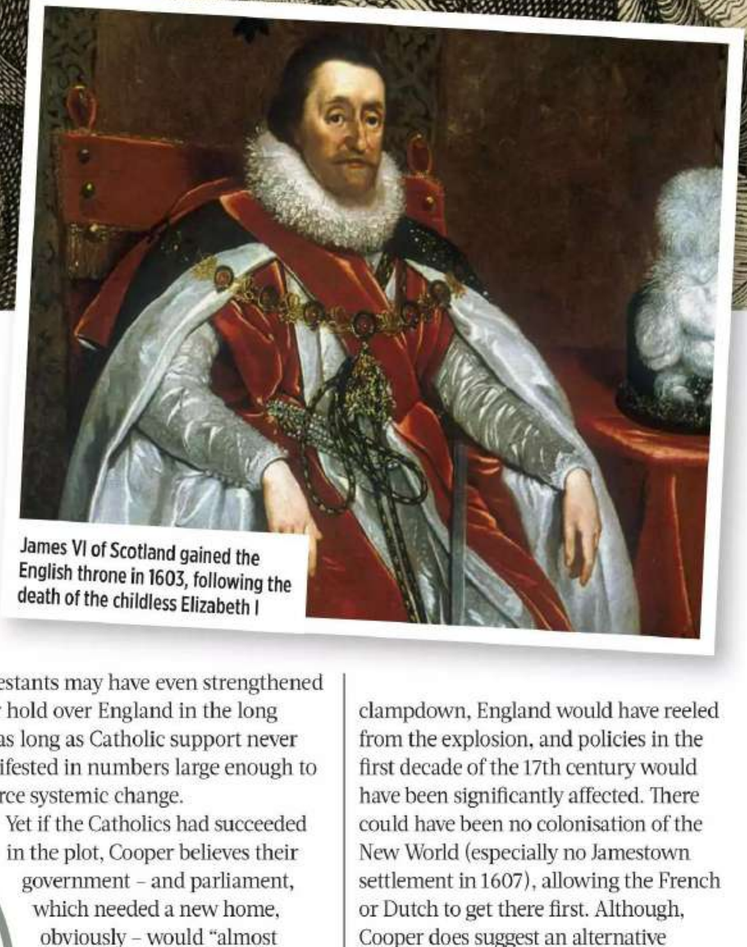
To the ryght honorable
the lord mowteagle

A copy of the anonymous note to Lord Monteagle, which led to plot's discovery

GETTY IMAGES X3



Fawkes depicted alongside Catesby and other notable plotters; he met his end opposite the building he planned to blow up



James VI of Scotland gained the English throne in 1603, following the death of the childless Elizabeth I

"ASSASSINATING JAMES AND HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ONE THING, SEIZING POWER QUITE ANOTHER"

including the networks assembled by plotters and families that had suffered most grievously during Elizabeth I's reign. But other Catholics, perhaps the majority, would have been horrified by the violent change of regime and deeply fearful of reprisals.

"Assassinating the King and his government was one thing, seizing power in England quite another. Protestant town councils, judges and local magistrates, as well as Church of England bishops and parish clergy, would have strongly opposed the imposition of a Catholic monarchy. Nor would Presbyterian Scotland have stood idly by while England fell to Catholicism."

If a functioning Catholic monarchy and government could not be established in the chaos – something Cooper suggests was "unlikely" – the Protestants would have been out for revenge and were sure to be "savage". Protestants may have even strengthened their hold over England in the long run as long as Catholic support never manifested in numbers large enough to enforce systemic change.

Yet if the Catholics had succeeded in the plot, Cooper believes their government – and parliament, which needed a new home, obviously – would "almost certainly" have had a pro-Spanish slant, considering the connection of some of the plotters, including Fawkes, to Catholic Spain. "The new regime may have included Spanish advisers," he says. A renewed Catholic England, however, would have struggled to maintain the personal union with the crown of Scotland, formed barely two years earlier with James's accession, and the Scots may have sought full independence once more.

Whatever the result of the plot, be it a Catholic resurgence or Protestant clampdown, England would have reeled from the explosion, and policies in the first decade of the 17th century would have been significantly affected. There could have been no colonisation of the New World (especially no Jamestown settlement in 1607), allowing the French or Dutch to get there first. Although, Cooper does suggest an alternative scenario: "If a pro-Spanish regime had been installed, the flood of Protestant migrants to the New World could have begun 15 years before the Pilgrim Fathers sailed for America." ⊙

DID YOU KNOW?

MASTER OF DISGUISE?

Guy Fawkes could enter the cellars underneath Parliament as the plotters had leased out a space. He brought in the gunpowder while pretending to be a servant, with the unimaginative alias of John Johnson.

WATCH

The BBC-commissioned drama *Gunpowder*, starring Kit Harington as plot leader Robert Catesby, is currently streaming on Amazon Prime.

NEXT MONTH

What if... Richard III had won at Bosworth?

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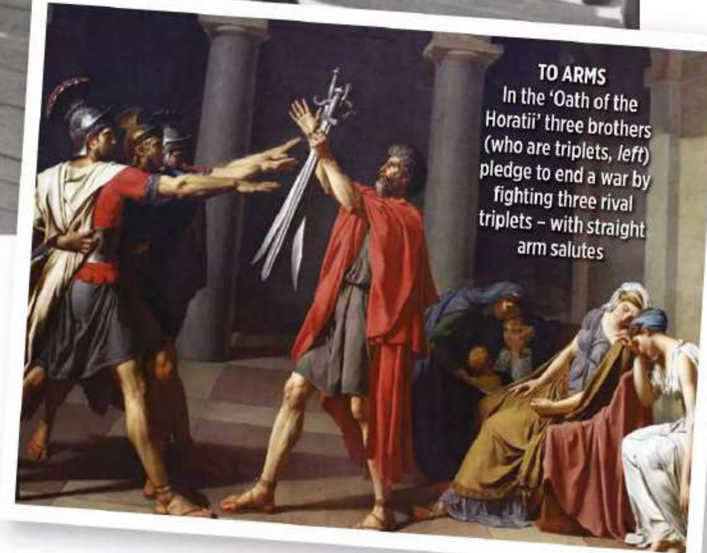
18

The number of months that a chicken, Miracle Mike, lived without a head. He was still able to preen, peck and 'crow' (though it sounded a bit off).

ANOTHER ACT OF APPROPRIATION
Adolf Hitler is greeted with the Nazi salute on his way to lay the foundation stone of the Reichsbank in Berlin, in May 1934



TO ARMS
In the 'Oath of the Horatii' three brothers (who are triplets, *left*) pledge to end a war by fighting three rival triplets – with straight arm salutes

Who invented the Nazi salute?

SHORT ANSWER Not the Romans, although artwork about the Romans did have something to do with it

LONG ANSWER As they did with the swastika, the Nazis may have forevermore corrupted the image of the straight-armed salute, but they didn't invent it. The Americans had been using a strikingly similar salute since 1892 when giving the Pledge of Allegiance, as had the Olympics.

In fact, the Nazis weren't even the first fascists to stick their arms out in such a manner. The Italians under Benito Mussolini began using the salute in the 1920s, having themselves pinched it from an early forerunner of fascism, Gabriele d'Annunzio. To him, such a gesture was a link to the glories of Ancient Rome – the salute had been strongly associated with their toga-wearing forebears, despite there being no contemporary evidence to suggest the Romans actually used it. Instead, the salute emerged in neoclassical artwork in the 18th and 19th centuries – starting around the time of 'Oath of the Horatii', a painting by Jacques-Louis David in 1784 – and early films in the 20th century.

Hitler envied the salute, yet didn't want to look like he was adopting something markedly un-German. Simple, he just re-named it the 'Hitler salute' and came up with a phony nationalistic heritage, erroneously claiming that German theologian Martin Luther had received the gesture at the Diet of Worms in 1521.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

NO HOLDS BARRED
One of Murder, Inc's most famous hits was that of Dutch Schultz, who openly defied the National Crime Syndicate – he was shot in a restaurant

11

The number of astronauts to walk on the Moon, out of 12, who were in the Boy Scouts.

What was Murder, Inc?

SHORT ANSWER A crew of hitmen-for-hire doing the dirty work for organised crime in 1930s New York

LONG ANSWER During the 1930s, the National Crime Syndicate was a loose pact between organised crime organisations, including the Mafia and Jewish mobs, who deemed a form of co-existence preferable to constant turf warfare. That didn't mean there wasn't plenty of bloodshed, though. That was the work of Murder, Inc.

The syndicate built a crew of brutal, remorseless enforcers, tasked to deal with anyone who threatened their hold over New York's underworld, whether it be a rival or a police informant. Headed by Louis 'Lepke' Buchalter and operating out of a Brooklyn candy store, this mobster death squad committed hundreds of slayings, or 'hits'. Harry 'Pittsburgh Phil' Strauss alone counted his kills in three figures.

Murder, Inc – a name bestowed by the press – finally dissolved in the early 1940s when one of its own, Abe 'Kid Twist' Reles, turned government witness. He 'mysteriously' fell out of a window while under police protection.

What were the Nika Riots?

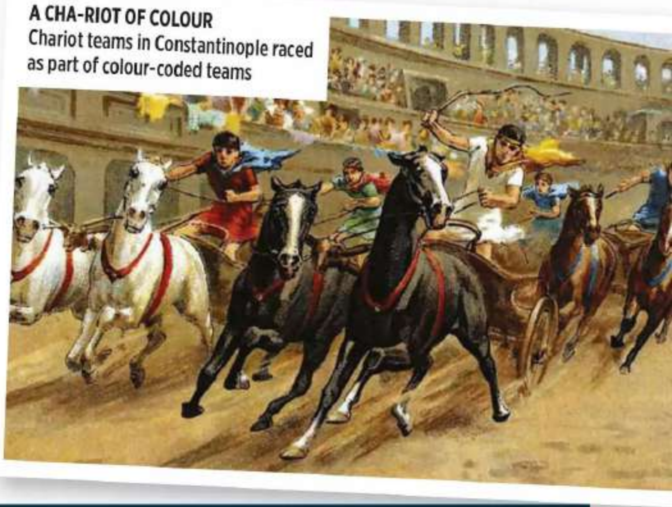
SHORT ANSWER The most violent riots in the history of Constantinople, and all because of chariot racing

LONG ANSWER A week of rioting in January AD 532 ended with Constantinople wrecked, tens of thousands dead, and Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I almost overthrown. The Romans took chariot racing *very* seriously.

Chariot teams were split into colour-coded factions – Blue, Green, Red and White – with loyal groups of supporters, called *demes*. Violence among them was common enough at races in the Hippodrome (like football hooliganism today), but after one particularly bloody fight Justinian set an example by executing the ringleaders. Job done, except two escaped – one Blue and one Green – and sought sanctuary in a church, which inadvertently united the demes against the emperor.

With tension mounting, the next race turned even uglier than normal. All factions took up the cry *Nika* ('Win' or 'Victory') against Justinian and poured into the streets for a full week of rioting, during which the mob declared a new emperor and the original Hagia Sophia fell victim to the flames. Order was only restored when Justinian sent in his troops to trap the demes in the Hippodrome and cut them down in the thousands.

A CHA-RIOT OF COLOUR
Chariot teams in Constantinople raced as part of colour-coded teams



What happened when town criers gave bad news?

SHORT ANSWER Probably nothing – even if they did cry out ill tidings, they were protected by law

LONG ANSWER OYEZ OYEZ OYEZ! Gather round to hear the news! At a time before newspapers – or just widespread literacy – town criers alerted people to the latest headlines with a booming voice and a large bell in their hands. They would be an instantly recognisable feature of a medieval town, and also a potentially incendiary one, as they could spark anger and resentment if the news they cried was bad, such as a hike in taxes or an unpopular law. Luckily for them, town criers had the protection of law. As they acted in the name of the monarch, anyone who attacked one committed treason. The phrase 'don't shoot the messenger' comes to mind. Chances were that the town criers could look after themselves anyway, as their other responsibilities included patrolling after dark, taking troublemakers to the stocks, and cutting down the dead at public executions.

TOO LATE, TASMAN Polynesians reached New Zealand centuries before Abel Tasman; the first may have been Kupe, a legendary chief of the Hawaiki whose statue stands in Wellington

Who 'discovered' New Zealand?

SHORT ANSWER Abel Tasman, but only if you don't count those who discovered the land three centuries earlier

LONG ANSWER The story goes that, on 13 December 1642, Dutch explorer Abel Tasman first laid eyes on New Zealand. Fresh from being the first European on the land that now bears his name, Tasmania, he charted the west coast of the South Island to the same coast of the North Island, but he never set foot there and had a not-so-auspicious first meeting with Māori war canoes before sailing away. The problem with this story is that 'discovery' tends to be credited to Europeans. New Zealand was actually discovered centuries earlier by pioneering Polynesians, the ancestors of the Māori.

They sailed the Pacific, navigating with ocean currents and the stars, and made landfall around the mid-13th century. The tradition in some Māori tribes goes that the first person on New Zealand, which they call Aotearoa, was Kupe, a legendary chief of the Hawaiki who found the land while hunting a giant octopus.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2

524

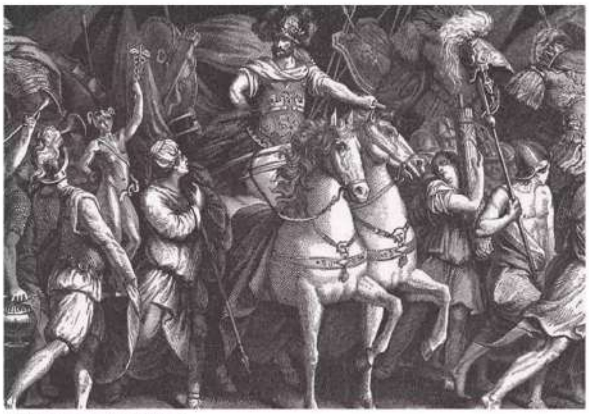
The number of laps of the Royal Albert Hall in Britain's first indoor marathon in 1909.

Did victorious armies really 'salt the earth'?

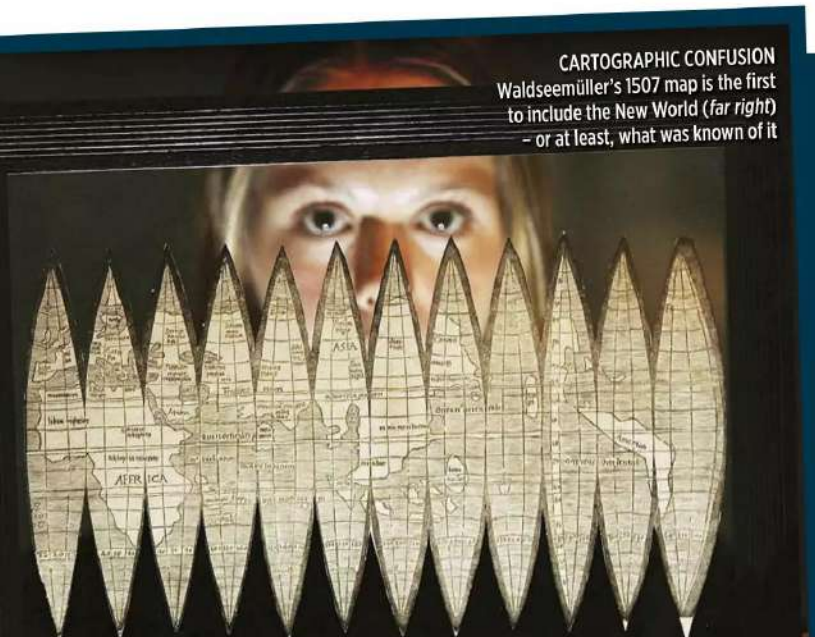
SHORT ANSWER Armies would not likely have transported hundreds of tonnes of salt just to make a point

LONG ANSWER With a policy not of 'scorched earth' but 'seasoned earth', an ancient army poured salt over a conquered city and its fields to stop anything growing again – or so we are told. Supposedly, the Roman general Scipio Aemilianus salted Carthage during the Third Punic War. Yet there are no sources for this and the idea of literally salting the earth has to be taken with a pinch of… you get the idea.

Salt was too valuable to use in the vast quantities needed to render a city's soil unusable, so references to the practice were more symbolic than literal, such as a ceremonial salting of a small patch as seen in the modern-day Middle East. In Spain and Portugal, smaller-scale saltings also took place on the land of convicted traitors.



FEELING SALTY, SCIPIO?
It's unlikely that Scipio Aemilianus (*on horseback*) would have wasted valuable salt – much less carried the vast quantities required on campaign



CARTOGRAPHIC CONFUSION
Waldseemüller's 1507 map is the first to include the New World (*far right*) – or at least, what was known of it

Who named the Americas?

SHORT ANSWER A German mapmaker honoured the Italian explorer of the New World: and no, it's not Columbus

LONG ANSWER It could be argued the Americas should be named for Columbus, and perhaps they would have been if he had written more. Instead, the honour fell to another Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci. He made his own voyages around the turn of the 16th century and claimed the land was not part of Asia at all, but a separate continent. But more importantly, Vespucci wrote about his travels in a series of letters, which became popular reads back in Europe.

The letter that contained the phrase *Mundu Novus* (New World) found its way to German cartographer and humanist scholar Martin Waldseemüller. In 1507, he made a huge map measuring 2.4 by 1.4 metres, showing this New World with the name 'America' after the man he believed to be the discoverer. That name took off, although in his later maps Waldseemüller left it out. Perhaps he had been told about Columbus by then.

SAILING INTO HISTORY The little ships like these (*inset right*) evacuated just over 335,000 soldiers from France, a feat dramatised in the 2017 film *Dunkirk*

How many little ships went to Dunkirk?

SHORT ANSWER Around 850 – and without these shallow-draft boats, many more men would have been lost

LONG ANSWER May 1940 and victory in World War II was already within Adolf Hitler's reach. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and Allied forces had been pushed to the English Channel, forming a desperate line of defence at Dunkirk in northern France.

While a mass evacuation got underway, called Operation Dynamo, hopes only reached as high as rescuing 45,000 men from the beaches. In the end, 338,226 men were saved in what Prime Minister Winston Churchill described as a "miracle of deliverance". That was, in no small part, thanks to the civilian vessels of all shapes and sizes requisitioned by the Ministry of Shipping to head to Dunkirk and load soldiers in the shallow waters. Around 850 of them, from fishing boats to pleasure craft, made the crossing. The *Sundowner*, piloted by *Titanic* officer and World War I naval hero Charles Lightoller, had 130 men crammed on board alone.

The crews of the 'little ships' – the littlest being the 4.5m *Tamzine* – put their lives at risk from strafing by the Luftwaffe, mines in the Channel and shelling from German batteries circling Dunkirk. More than 250 vessels were lost, but the BEF survived to fight another day.

DID YOU KNOW?

TO THE BOOKIES

Children's book word-wizard Dr Seuss agreed to a bet with his publisher that he could write a book using only 50 words. He won the bet with *Green Eggs and Ham*, which remains one of his bestsellers.

COMRADES-IN-ARMS

In 1866, the country of Liechtenstein sent 80 men to guard the border to the south. When they returned, their force had actually grown to 81 as they had made an "Italian friend".

BRASSED OFF

When the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe was 20, he lost a chunk of his nose in a sword duel. For the rest of his life, he wore a prosthetic made of brass, although he had silver and gold alternatives for special occasions.

SQUARE PEG, ROUND HOLE

In 1718, British lawyer James Puckle developed a proto-machine gun that could fire square bullets, which were only to be used on Muslim Turks to teach them the "benefits of Christian civilisation".

How long have we said 'God bless you' after a sneeze?

SHORT ANSWER A pope got us saying it (perhaps), but for much more serious reasons than politeness

LONG ANSWER The real question to consider is when would a sneeze be considered so serious that it required an instant blessing from on high? The answer: during a plague. Europe was ravaged by bubonic plague from the fifth century AD, including in Rome in AD 590. As sneezing was an early sign of someone falling ill, Pope Gregory I decreed that blessing should follow as a form of spiritual protection. Such a response may be older, though, when a blessing was thought to stop a sneeze from accidentally causing the soul to come shooting out of the nose, or let evil spirits in.

What is the oldest national anthem?

SHORT ANSWER It's tricky to say, as there are a few contenders...

LONG ANSWER People have always sung patriotic songs without them being national anthems, so there's a bit of debate over which was first. Japan's *Kimigayo* has the oldest lyrics, taken from a poem written during the Heian Period (AD 794-1185), but they were not set to music until the late-19th century.

A more likely answer is Holland's *Wilhelmus*, which, even though it formally became the anthem in 1932, dates to around 1569-72 while the Dutch fought for independence against Spanish rule. At a hefty 15 stanzas, it would have taken a while to sing. For the first song proclaimed as a national anthem, look no further than God Save the King, which was first belt out in 1745 during the Jacobite Rebellion, when the need for a stirring, patriotic tune was high.

IT'S A VIN-VIN SITUATION Tiny wine windows offered – and continue to offer – reduced-contact tipples

What are wine windows and what do they have to do with plague?

SHORT ANSWER A social-distancing measure from Renaissance Italy is having something of a renaissance

LONG ANSWER It is a time of pandemic, when getting too close to other people is strongly discouraged and merchants cannot sell their wares normally. This may sound a lot like 2020, but it's the 1630s. Like today, the people of plague-ravaged 17th-century Europe still wanted a tipple, so wine sellers of Florence and the Tuscany region came up with a unique solution.

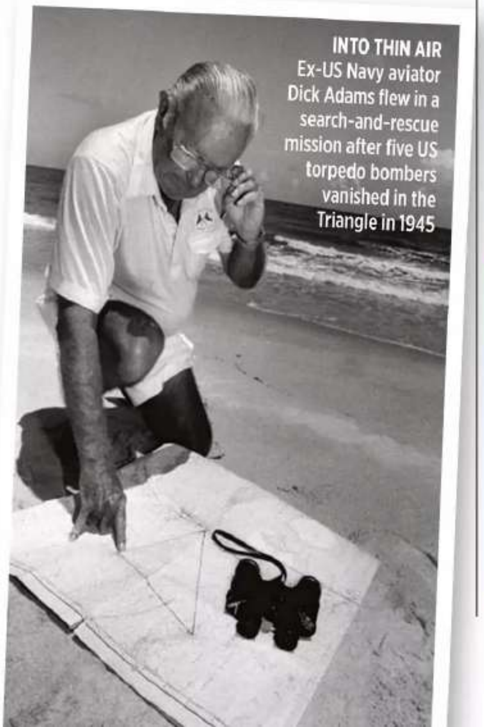
Little doors would be cut into the walls of buildings – like cat flaps above the ground, too small for anything but a hand – through which flasks of wine could be passed with minimal contact. These *buchette del vino*, or wine windows, were a handy way for wine producers to make extra money by selling surreptitiously and directly to customers, but it was during times of bubonic plague that their true worth was seen. The wine could keep flowing without risk of touching the sick. Sellers even collected the money on metal dishes and disinfected the coins with vinegar.

As an effective way to maintain social distance, it should come as no surprise that businesses in Florence have started making the most of their leftover wine windows in the time of Covid-19, selling anything from coffee, gelato, cocktails and, of course, wine through the mini hatches.

Why is it the Bermuda 'Triangle'?

SHORT ANSWER The geography makes a neat triangle, but doesn't explain anything else

LONG ANSWER That's the easy bit. The stretch of Atlantic Ocean that strikes fear into the superstitious tends to be roughly defined by a triangle between Miami in the United States, Puerto Rico and, of course, Bermuda. The difficult bit is knowing exactly what is happening in the Bermuda Triangle. Dozens of ships and planes have vanished over the last century, having sent no distress signal and leaving no wreckage. Theories range from the scientifically reasonable – magnetic anomalies, the effects of the Gulf Stream or just bad weather – to the outlandish, such as aliens or attacks from the underwater city of Atlantis.



INTO THIN AIR Ex-US Navy aviator Dick Adams flew in a search-and-rescue mission after five US torpedo bombers vanished in the Triangle in 1945

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X1

What birth control was there in ancient China?

SHORT ANSWER Best stick with herbs if a warm cup of mercury doesn't sound all that appealing

LONG ANSWER While Greek women used pomegranate (which is said to actually boost fertility) and Egyptians thought an application of crocodile dung did the trick, the women of China took enormous gambles with their health to prevent pregnancy. Although physicians did recommend herbal options, like saffron, or a method seen all over the ancient world, *coitus interruptus*, the benefits seemed less about preventing pregnancy and more about the spiritual purpose of preserving yang.

When such methods weren't effective enough – especially for prostitutes and concubines – women drank warmed-up mercury, lead or arsenic. It was important, for obvious reasons, to get the quantities right so they didn't also poison themselves, as these substances can cause organ failure and brain damage.

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ONE TO WATCH

Tobias Menzies and Olivia Colman (left) continue their portrayals of Prince Philip and Elizabeth II while Gillian Anderson (below) is introduced as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Doomed marriage

The Crown / Netflix, streaming from Sunday 15 November

The likeness is extraordinary. Not primarily because actor Emma Corrin bears a particular resemblance to Lady Diana Spencer, although she does, but because publicity photographs suggest Corrin has perfectly caught the young Diana's wariness, the sense this was a young woman caught by the world's gaze.

As series four of Peter Morgan's *The Crown* explores as it charts the Windsors' story from c1977-90, the future Princess of Wales had every reason to be worried. Her marriage to Charles (Josh O'Connor), celebrated in the fairytale 'Wedding of the Century' (1981), would soon hit the rocks, as was perhaps inevitable considering Charles's longstanding attachment to Camilla Parker Bowles (Emerald Fennell).

Outside the confines of the royal family, the 1980s were a tumultuous year in British history. In 1979, following the so-called Winter of Discontent, Margaret Thatcher came to power at the head of a radical Conservative government that challenged the post-war settlement and, in 1982, went to war with Argentina over the Falklands. Gillian Anderson of *X-Files* fame plays The Iron Lady, an arch-royalist who nonetheless has a sometimes strained relationship with Elizabeth (Olivia Colman), in part because the monarch sees her role as one of encouraging national unity and a sense of continuity.

With a budget this time around reported to be as high as £100m (the opening series cost £50m), there's no skimping on *The Crown*'s evocation of the recent past. Anderson, for instance, met with Charles Moore, Thatcher's official biographer, as she prepared for the part.

As for Diana's famously lavish wedding dress with its 25ft train, it was recreated with the help of original patterns donated by designers David and Elizabeth Emanuel. This sense of no-expense-spared care extends to portraying the characters' private lives. Researching Diana's bulimia and anxious not to sensationalise, Corrin talked with experts from the eating disorder charity Beat.

Emma Corrin and Josh O'Connor star as the Prince and Princess of Wales

NETFLIX X2

Liz Carr is a disability rights activist and actor, well-known for her eight-year stint on BBC crime drama *Silent Witness*

Familial stories

Who Do You Think You Are? / BBC One and BBC iPlayer, from Monday 12 October

Over the summer, it seemed certain the 17th series of the BBC's celebrity genealogy show would fall victim to Covid-19. As things turned out, the producers have managed to complete four new episodes of *WDYTYA?* – those featuring *Doctor Who* and *Broadchurch* star Jodie Whittaker, comedian and children's writer David Walliams, actor and activist Liz Carr, and *Gavin And Stacey* co-creator Ruth Jones.

Whittaker's comments when the shows were announced hint at one reason why these new episodes are especially welcome. At a time when so many of us are seeing less of our families, *WDYTYA?* acts as a reminder of deep connections. Beginning her filming in February, before lockdown, Whittaker was, she says, lucky just to be able to travel home to see her mum and dad, "and lucky to meet and shake hands with some wonderful and intelligent people whose insight into history blew my mind".

Whittaker's journey encompasses both industrial unrest and World War I, and the 1914-18 conflict also features in David Walliams' research, as he traces the story of a great-great grandfather who, afflicted by blindness, made a career as a travelling entertainer.

Liz Carr's show promises to be particularly intriguing as, in a scenario with echoes of her role in *Silent Witness*, she learns about the involvement of one of her forebears in an attempted murder. Meantime, Ruth Jones hears stories of seafaring and finds pride in her paternal grandfather, an important figure in the Medical Aid Societies of South Wales, which helped provide the template for the National Health Service on its launch.

Jodie Whittaker and David Walliams delve into their family history in the new series of WDYTYA?

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Blasting off

The Right Stuff / Disney+, streaming from Friday 9 October

For the Mercury Seven, the race for space was a personal quest. That's because, as a new drama series based on Tom Wolfe's book *The Right Stuff* explores, they represented the best of the best, the fliers selected to be sent into orbit in the early 1960s – preferably before a Soviet became the first man in space, although as history records, that honour went to Yuri Gagarin in 1961.

The series not only dramatises the work the astronauts put in at a time when spacefaring technology was in its infancy, but also considers the effects of being so long, and so often, in the public eye on the men. The cast includes Jake McDorman as Alan Shepard, the first American in space, and future series will follow the story of Nasa through to the first Moon landing.

(*From left*) Kelvin Harrison Jr, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Mark Rylance star in the legal drama

Ancient land, new visions

Zakia Sewell's Albion / BBC Radio 4, Tuesday 17 November

Zakia Sewell has a complicated relationship with the idea of being British. As someone whose mother is from the Caribbean, national symbols that evoke empire are at best problematic. But the idea of Albion, a Britishness rooted in a mythical place dating from before colonialism and even civilisation itself, that's another matter.

In part, says the writer and broadcaster, this is because of seeing Pentangle in concert when she was growing up, a formative experience. The band's intricate and fluid music, rooted in both folk and jazz, evoked a kind of Englishness with which she strongly identified – utopian, bound up with a strong connection with the land – yet which she didn't talk about in the playground.

Over four episodes in a series that begins from the inherent tensions here, Sewell goes in search of Albion. It all makes for an ambitious series that takes in identity, nationality, myth, magic, Anglo-Saxon ideas of Albion, and the relationship between the English and those from Celtic lands. It also offers a new way to look at the legacies of empire and explores why some people want to conjure up visions of Albion that exclude black people.

"Now, more than ever, during a period in which difficult conversations about national identity, history and belonging are growing louder and louder, we are in desperate need of new stories, symbols and customs that can help us to grapple with who we are," says Sewell. "Could a new vision of Albion be the key to our future?"

Zakia regularly presents her show Questing w/Zakia on NTS radio

Radical voices

The Trial Of The Chicago 7 / Netflix, streaming from 16 October

In 1968, the politics of the US were volatile, in great part because the conflict in Vietnam was proving such a divisive issue. One of the major domestic flashpoints came at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, when what was intended as a peaceful anti-war demonstration became a showdown with the police and the National Guard.

The organisers of the protest – including Yippies Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, civil rights activist Tom Hayden, who later married Jane Fonda, and Black Panther co-founder Bobby Seale – were charged with conspiracy to incite a riot. The trial that followed became notorious, with many of its convictions later overturned.

Written by Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing*, *The Social Network*), who also directs, this legal drama, which would have had a wider cinema release but for the Covid-19 pandemic, tells the story of the trial. Expect Sorkin's trademark quick-fire and clever dialogue, and an interpretation of the past that's sympathetic to the protestors. A starry ensemble cast includes Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Sacha Baron Cohen, Michael Keaton, Eddie Redmayne, Mark Rylance and Jeremy Strong.

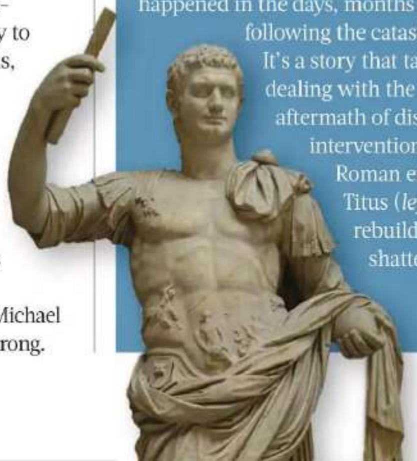
Beginning anew

Eternal Pompeii / PBS America, Monday 2 November

From *Doctor Who* to documentaries presented by Mary Beard, the story of how, in 79AD, the Roman seaport of Pompeii was buried beneath ash and pumice from Mount Vesuvius has been endlessly revisited.

What's far less familiar is the subject of this documentary, which considers what happened in the days, months and years following the catastrophe.

It's a story that takes in dealing with the immediate aftermath of disaster, the intervention of the Roman emperor, Titus (*left*), and the rebuilding of a shattered region.



EXPERIENCING HISTORY

With much of Britain adapting to a 'new normal', museums and historical spaces are continuing to reopen their doors

MUST SEE

A display of various suits of armour for men and horses alike at the Royal Armouries Musuem

Henry VIII's horned helmet, with engraved wrinkles

The museum's more exotic displays include this impressive elephant armour

Royal Armouries Museum

LEEDS
Now open
bit.ly/33OFeLS

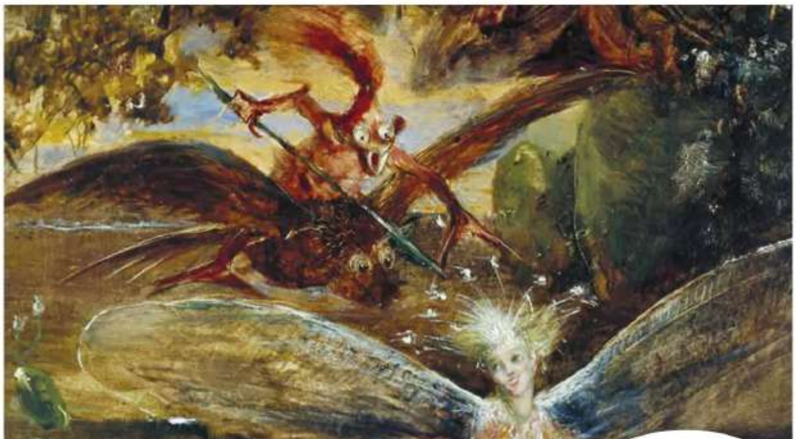
One of the world's oldest collections of weapons and armour – and the oldest museum in Britain – has reopened its doors. The Royal Armouries collections are based across three sites: The Tower of London; Fort Nelson, in Hampshire; and the Royal Armouries Museum, in Leeds.

The Leeds museum has recently allowed the public back onto the site. The museum houses more than 8,500 objects across its five galleries. A few highlights from this expansive collection include a telescope made for Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, which Wellesley used at the Battle of Waterloo; an Italian 17th-century 'Assassin's' crossbow, which earned its nickname as its diminutive size made it perfect for hiding inside clothing; a stave from a longbow found on the *Mary Rose*; and a 'vampire killing kit' full of 19th-century items including stakes, a crucifix and garlic paste.

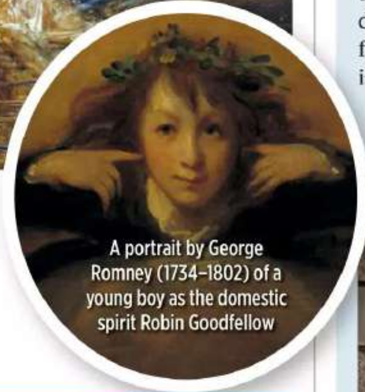
The museum will be open from 10am–5pm from Wednesday to Sunday. A free ticket must be booked in advance. The Tournament Gallery, and floor 3 and 5 of the War Gallery are currently closed to prepare for new exhibitions, but the cafe, shop and toilets are open.

WHEN VISITING MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL SPACES, PLEASE FOLLOW OFFICIAL SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES AND FACE-COVERING RULES
DETAILS ACCURATE AT TIME OF WRITING – CHECK INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION BEFORE TRAVELLING

JOHN ANSTER FITZGERALD THE FAIRY'S LAKE EXHIBITED 1866. TATE, GEORGE ROMNEY - TOM HAYLEY AS ROBIN GOODFELLOW 1789-92. TATE, SUPPORTED BY AHRC AND ESRC, GETTY X2, ALAMY X3



The Fairy's Lake by John Anster Fitzgerald (1819-1906)



A portrait by George Romney (1734–1802) of a young boy as the domestic spirit Robin Goodfellow

Fairies

TATE BRITAIN, LONDON

Until August 2021
bit.ly/2SJlaV0

About 200 years ago, British painters began to imagine and depict what they believed fairies might look like, and a new display at Tate Britain explores this fascination in glorious detail. The artists of the Romantic and Victorian periods were intrigued by nature as well as the supernatural, and thus a surge of fairy paintings emerged. The Tate has an impressive collection of fairy paintings, including William Blake's ethereal watercolour, *Oberon, Titania and Puck with Fairies Dancing*, Henry Fuseli's *Titania and Bottom*, and Richard Dadd's *The Fairy Feller's Master Stroke*.

REFUGEES: FORCED TO FLEE

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, LONDON

Until 24 May 2021
bit.ly/34NFnP4

This exhibition shines a light on the experiences of refugees over the last century – from the Belgians who sailed to Britain in World War I, to the perilous Channel and Mediterranean crossings desperate refugees undertake today. War is presented as an agent of chaos, forcing many to leave their homes – and often their countries – behind. A potent mix of photographs, oral histories and objects from those who have lived through these experiences help tell these refugees' stories, while common misconceptions about refugees are confronted.

A girl in the charred remains of Greece's Mória refugee camp

Brontë Parsonage Museum

HAWORTH, YORKSHIRE

Now open
bit.ly/2GXmRvq

The parsonage in Haworth, West Yorkshire, was home to Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë – three of literature's most talented writers – as well as their brother and parents. It was here that some of the sisters' best-loved works were put on paper, including *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*. Run by the Brontë Society, the house is now a museum dedicated to the lives of the writers. Visit the room where the sisters did most of their writing, and see the office where their father, Reverend Patrick Brontë, worked. The museum is open from Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm, and admission must be pre-booked online. Please note: the museum does not have any public toilets.

The parsonage's dining room, which was the room where the three sisters did the majority of their writing, is open to visitors once more

The supposed tombs of King Arthur and Guinevere were found here in 1191

Glastonbury Abbey

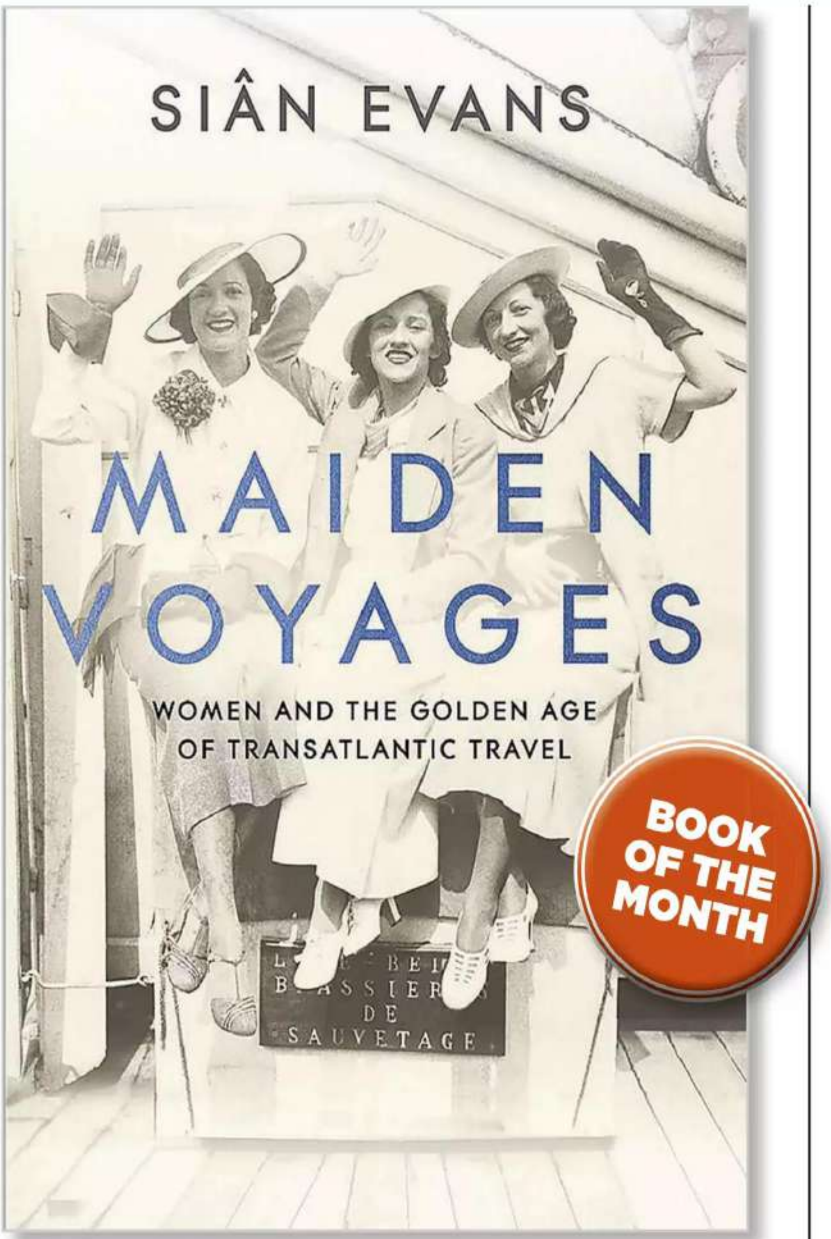
GLASTONBURY, SOMERSET

Now open
bit.ly/2GQmS4n

Glastonbury Abbey in the Somerset Levels has a certain magical appeal to it – from its fabled connection to the legendary King Arthur, to the fact that it's rumoured to have been founded by Joseph of Arimathea, who, according to the Christian tradition, buried Jesus after his crucifixion. The current abbey dates from the 12th century (although its religious community predated this), and it became one of England's most powerful monasteries before its dissolution in 1539. You can soak up the abbey's extraordinary atmosphere from 10am–4pm from Tuesday–Friday, and until 5.30pm on weekends. Tickets can be bought online at a discounted price.

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



Maiden Voyages: Women and the Golden Age of Transatlantic Travel

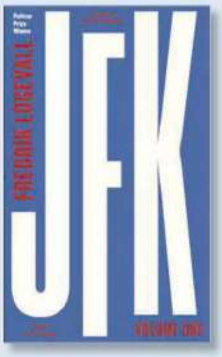
By Siân Evans, Two Roads, £20, hardback, 368 pages

With coronavirus dramatically reducing the appeal of hopping aboard an aeroplane, it's the perfect time to delve into this atmospheric look at transatlantic travel a century ago. Back then, the way to America was via ocean liner – a new form of transport that had a transformative effect on the lives of millions of women. Siân Evans follows some of their stories as they set sail for fresh opportunities: a new job, a new marriage, or a whole new life overseas.

JFK, Volume One

By Frederik Logevall, Viking, £30, hardback, 816 pages

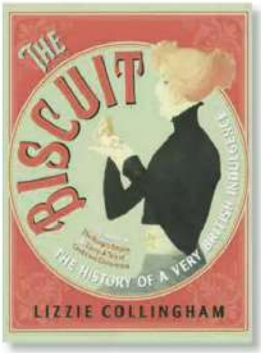
John F Kennedy is one of the towering figures of American history, as famous for his romantic life and tragic death as he is for his political career. This first volume in a major two-part biography winds the clock back to explore JFK's formative years: his family life, the extent to which his father shaped his career, and his experiences during World War II. It's a captivating portrait of a man whose life, intriguingly, echoes the ideas and concerns of his times.

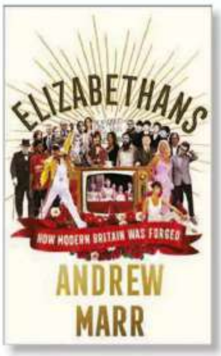


The Biscuit: The History of a Very British Indulgence

By Lizzie Collingham, Bodley Head, £18.99, hardback, 320 pages

The ingredients of this biscuity biography – one part globetrotting adventure, two parts social history and a sprinkling of recipes to try at home – add up to something more than the purely saccharine concoction you might expect. There are sweet treats here, of course, but they sit alongside stories of ancient slavery, arduous maritime expeditions and life on the streets of war-torn Britain. It's all beautifully presented, bringing the surprisingly long histories of the snacks we know and enjoy today evocatively to life.





Elizabethans: How Modern Britain was Forged

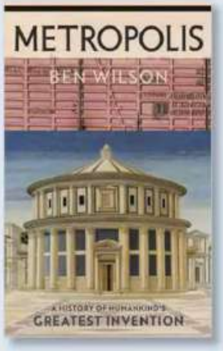
By Andrew Marr, William Collins, £20, hardback, 512 pages

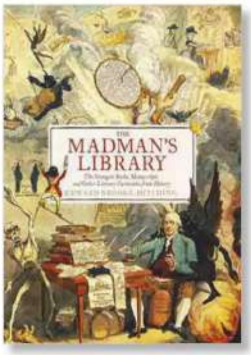
Writer and political broadcaster Andrew Marr here explores the Elizabethan era – not the England of the late-16th century, but the rather more familiar Britain reigned over by Elizabeth II. From her coronation in 1953 to the post-Brexit society of 2020, it's a story that Marr tells through the lives of individual people: Churchill, yes, but also Margaret Thatcher, David Attenborough and Tracey Emin. Each has something to say about wider issues, including class, sexuality and national identity.

Metropolis: A History of Humankind's Greatest Invention

By Ben Wilson, Jonathan Cape, £25, hardback, 448 pages

The story of humanity, Ben Wilson argues, is increasingly intertwined with that of the city – yet, for centuries, urban dwellers were outnumbered by their rural counterparts. So how were the streets, shops, skyscrapers and slums we know today forged? And how should we make sense of this history to improve our future? From ancient Uruk to glittering New York and industrial Manchester, Wilson travels continents and centuries in a bid to find out.





The Madman's Library: The Greatest Curiosities of Literature

By Edward Brooke-Hitching, Simon & Schuster, £25, hardback, 256 pages

A message cryptically adorned with hieroglyphs; a satire of an erotic novel that fooled the American public; a volume bound with the skin of a murderer. All feature in this riotous history of weird and wonderful books, a medium whose form and content is seemingly limited only to its creator's imagination. It's suitably lively (garishly coloured fish await on one page, while the drawings of Japanese 'fart competitions' are even better than that description suggests) but never loses sight of the history among the hijinks.

HistoryExtra Podcast

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

THIS MONTH... three podcasts on royal women

Visit historyextra.com/podcast for new podcasts every week

HistoryExtra Podcast

Eleanor of Aquitaine: myth and reality

http://bit.ly/EleanorAquitainePod88

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of medieval Europe's wealthiest, most powerful women, reigning as queen consort of both France and England in the 12th century. In this 2019 conversation, biographer Sara Cockerill and historian Dan Jones discuss Eleanor's life and legacy, and how she navigated the currents of power swirling around her.

History Extra Podcast

Marie Antoinette

bit.ly/MarieAntoinettePod88

As famous for what she didn't do as what she did – it's doubtful that she ever uttered the immortal phrase "let them eat cake" – it's fair to say that Marie Antoinette, France's final pre-revolutionary queen, has a mixed reputation. In an interview recorded earlier this year, historian John Hardman charts her real-life story, from her birth in 1755 to death at the hands of revolutionaries 37 years later.

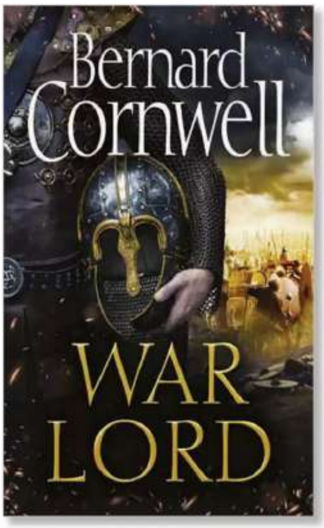
History Extra Podcast

Catherine the Great: fact and fiction

bit.ly/CatherineGreatPod88

Catherine the Great – Empress of Russia from 1762 until her death in 1796 – was that nation's longest-serving female ruler, and increased its power and might considerably. This 2019 interview with historian Janet Hartley explores the truth behind scandals that have emerged about her life and reign in subsequent years.

HISTORICAL FICTION....



War Lord

By Bernard Cornwell
HarperCollins, £20

The final novel in the Anglo-Saxon series *The Last Kingdom* sees Uhtred of Bebbanburg back in his rightful home of Northumbria. He must decide whether to risk his hard-won peace and join the fight. Northumbria, the last kingdom, becomes a coveted prize for King Æthelstan who has recently unified the three kingdoms of Wessex, Mercia and East Anglia. There is also the looming threat of a Scottish invasion. Uhtred must now be prepared for his greatest battle yet as England's creation story finally comes to an epic conclusion.

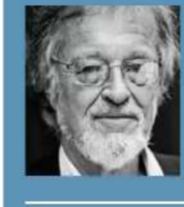
Listen to Bernard Cornwell talking about *The Last Kingdom* novels on a future episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast

Excerpt

Uhtred is being pulled into conflict once more on account of King Æthelstan, who had once sworn an oath that he would never invade Northumbria while Uhtred lived, but who is now in Eoferwic with an army. Uhtred has 83 men waiting behind the crest of a hill near Bebbanburg to do his bidding.

'Lord King,' I said again, 'I swear by Odin . . .' and with that I brought the stone up and smashed it into the stallion's mouth. I hit the snaffle, crushing the silver decoration, but the blow must have hurt because the horse reared and whinnied. Guthfrith's sword vanished from my sight. 'Now!' I bellowed, though neither my son nor Berg needed the encouragement. Guthfrith was struggling to stay in the saddle of his rearing horse. I stood, cursing the pain in my knees, and seized his sword arm. My son was to my left, keeping that man distracted by thrusting a sword at his belly. I hauled on Guthfrith, pulled again, was jerked to my right by the stallion, but Guthfrith fell at last, crashing down onto the road and I wrenched his sword free, dropped on his belly with my knees, and held Boar Tusk's blade at his straggling beard. 'You'll only get one oath from me, you miserable slime-toad,' I snarled, 'and that's a promise to kill you.' He lurched up and I forced the sword down hard, which stilled him. And behind me Finan was charging. My men's spears were lowered, the blades glittering in the harsh sun. Guthfrith's men had been much slower to react, but now they were coming too. And once again I was not certain I was fighting for the right side.

Q&A
Bernard Cornwell



Bernard Cornwell is one of Britain's best-loved writers of historical fiction. His series about Napoleonic rifleman Richard Sharpe spawned a popular TV series and *The Last Kingdom* has done the same. Cornwell now lives with his wife in the US.

How does it feel bringing Uhtred's story to an end?
A certain amount of regret! I've lived with him for over a decade now and his world is very much alive for me, so it's sad that I'm leaving it behind. But the poor man has lived long enough so he deserves a peaceful retirement!

Are you a fan of the TV adaptation and did this have any influence over your writing of the later books?
I'm a huge fan – they brought 10th-century England to marvellous life. I was fortunate enough to visit the filming in 2018 and it was a pleasure to see the sets and actors because they all looked so authentic. I can't say the series influenced the writing because I was well ahead in the story line. Alexander Dreymon fitted beautifully with how I'd imagined Uhtred.

Is it true that there is a family connection between you and the historical Uhtred of Bebbanburg?
Much too late in life I met my real father – William Oughtred. He lived in Canada and, when we met, he showed me a family tree that went back to Woden. The Oughtred family came from Yorkshire, and a branch had emigrated to Canada in the 19th century, but before settling in Yorkshire they were the owners of Bebbanburh, which became Bamburgh Castle. I saw the name Uhtred in the family tree and settled on him as my hero.

What is your writing process like?
I never know how a story, or even a chapter, will end. Some writers can plot their whole books in advance, but I've never been able to do that. I find it's usually best to let characters make their own decisions, though sometimes these turn out to be disastrous and I'm forced to go back and change things.

Why do you think that the story of England's creation isn't well known?
I suppose because 1066 is such a punctuation mark in England's story, and it's become the start point for most teaching of history. Schools do talk about Alfred, but usually only to stress what a terrible baker he was. There doesn't seem to be much interest in how England itself was created. And that is a rare and wonderful story worth knowing!

Have you got any more novels in the pipeline?
I'd always promised myself to return to Sharpe. It would be quite a wrench to go from the 10th to the early 19th century, but Sharpe has never left me.

LETTERS

The Romanovs were a doomed dynasty before 1918, says reader James Wells

Viking berserkers – like the one here, gnashing at his shield – would have been a terrifying sight on the battlefield

OVER AND OUT

In November's Q&A section, you refer to the former use of 'Roger' as a military response to received radio messages. I have heard that the hoped for response to British coded radio messages early in World War II was 'received and decoded'. This was later changed to R and D. The Americans, on entering the war, changed this to 'Roger Dodger'. Later developments caused Roger alone to be used for receipt of all messages.

Malcolm Tadd, by email

OF MICE AND (RO)MEN

I found the September issue very interesting, especially because it covered my favourite topic, the Romans, in such beautiful detail. As a keen collector of ancient Roman coins, it was nice to see an image of a silver coin of Aurelian. What was new to me, though, was the fact that the Romans ate dormice as a delicacy – there's me thinking I knew everything about the Romans!

Imran Asim Hayat, Edinburgh

VIKING LANDMARKS

It was with great anticipation I awaited November's essential guide to the Vikings. Regular meetings of my history society are currently suspended, but publication of our weekly newsletter has continued, and for three months, I wrote a weekly article on the Vikings. The essential guide confirmed my research – thank you *BBC History Revealed*! As a former student at the University of St John in York (in the 1960s), the Vikings have always been of interest to me, so the images in the piece were familiar: Lindisfarne, the statues of Rollo and William Longsword, the Oseberg ship and, of course, Clifford's Tower in York, all of which I have seen.

Peter Cadman, by email

BEAR NECESSITIES

I read your fascinating guide to the Vikings (November 2020) and remembered reading somewhere that 'berserker' comes from the Scandinavian word for 'bearskin'. Warriors would wear the skin/head of the beast into battle, no doubt with the hallucinogenic substances or in the trance-like state you mention in the guide, believing that they would assume the strength and ferocity of the creature.

Dave Houghton, by email

FEMALE DETECTIVES

I was interested in your September 2020 article about Victorian female detectives. There was almost a woman detective in the Sherlock Holmes story *The Sign of Four*. At the end of the story, Dr Watson is set to marry his latest client, Mary Morstan, and says she "might have been most useful in such work as we have been doing. She had a decided genius that way". It is a pity that Conan Doyle (or Watson) did not follow this up in future stories.

John Lockwood, Washington, DC

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 85 are:

A Gilbert, Tyne & Wear
M Walsh, Cheshire
L Randall, Oxon

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *The World Aflame*, by Marina Amaral and Dan Jones.

Please note, there will be a delay in posting your prize.

DOOMED DYNASTY?

I'm writing with regards to the 'What if…' piece in the October issue. Had any of the Tsar's daughters survived the family's mass murder at Ekaterinburg in 1918, it seems at least questionable whether any future monarchists would have been able to consider any of them as the basis of a new dynasty.

The Tsarina had inherited the haemophilia gene from her mother, Queen Victoria, and the Romanovs' only son (who had the blood disorder) was not expected to live beyond the age of 20. The Tsar's four daughters were probably also carriers of the haemophilia gene, and would have likely passed the disorder on to future children.

More conjectural is the possibility that, had the Tsar survived World War I, he may well have had to seriously consider divorcing the Tsarina and remarrying a non-carrier of the haemophilia gene in order to gain a viable male heir. Even without the Russian Revolution, the odds seemed rather stacked against the survival of the Romanov dynasty.

James Wells, by email

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CROSSWORD & PUZZLES

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Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

1 Confederate commander (1807–70) (6,1,3)

6 William Wallace or Robert Burns, perhaps (4)

9 Nickname for the city of New Orleans (3,3,4)

10 Evangelist, companion of Paul (4)

12 Old term for criminal slang, also called Rogues' Cant (7,5)

15 Betty ___ (1939–2001), US soul singer (7)

16 Donald ___ (1936–2011), British armed robber and kidnapper (7)

17 Arabic epithet for the Qur'an (2-5)

19 Michigan city, formerly known for lumber and automobile parts (7)

20 Italian politician (d1507), brother of Lucrezia (6,6)

23 The first man, in Christian legend (4)

24 1936 novel by Daphne du Maurier (7,3)

25 Play by Patrick Hamilton based loosely on the 1924 Leopold and Loeb murder case (4)

26 Site of the largest battle of the US Civil War (10)

DOWN

1 César ___ (1850–1918), Swiss hotelier (4)

2 ___ War, conflict ended by the 1902 Treaty of Vereeniging (4)

3 Annual BBC radio address, begun in 1948 (5,7)

4 Sir George ___ (1790–1866), Surveyor General of India from 1830 to 1843 (7)

5 SS *Great* ___, steamship designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and launched in 1858 (7)

7 Originally, women attendants at the court of a monarch (10)

8 ___ Soldier, dedicatee of many war memorials (3,7)

11 *Monty Python's* ___, BBC comedy series 1969-74 (6,6)

13 Form of transport, carried by servants (5,5)

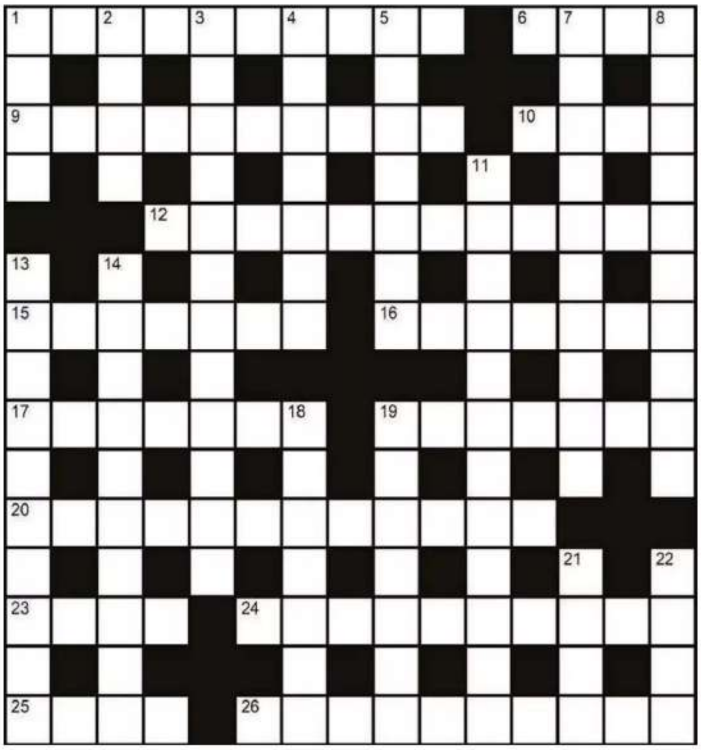
14 Protagonist of WM Thackeray's novel *Vanity Fair* (1847–8) (5,5)

18 Charles ___ (1791–1871), mathematician and inventor (7)

19 *The* ___, 1963 Joseph Losey film (7)

21 Indigenous people of east Asia (4)

22 Minor artisan in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (4)



Set by Richard Smyth

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SOLUTION Nº 86

1 B	A	2 T	T	3 L	E	4 O	F	5 A	L	6 G	I	7 E	R	8 S
U		O		A		S		E		R		M		A
9 L	A	R	D	N	E	R		10 R	O	E	D	E	A	N
L		M		D		I		L		E		R		D
11 D	R	E	A	M		12 C	H	I	C	K	A	S	A	W
O		N		I				N				O		I
13 G	U	T	E	N	B	14 E	R	G		15 P	U	N	I	C
D				E		N		U		R				H
16 R	O	17 S	E	S		18 T	O	S	C	A	N	19 I	N	I
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20 M	A	N	C	21 H	U	R	I	22 A		23 C	A	R	O	L
M		B		U		T		E		H		A		A
24 O	C	E	A	N	I	A		25 S	H	E	B	E	E	N
N		A		A		I		O		T		L		D
26 D	A	M	O	N	A	N	D	P	Y	T	H	I	A	S

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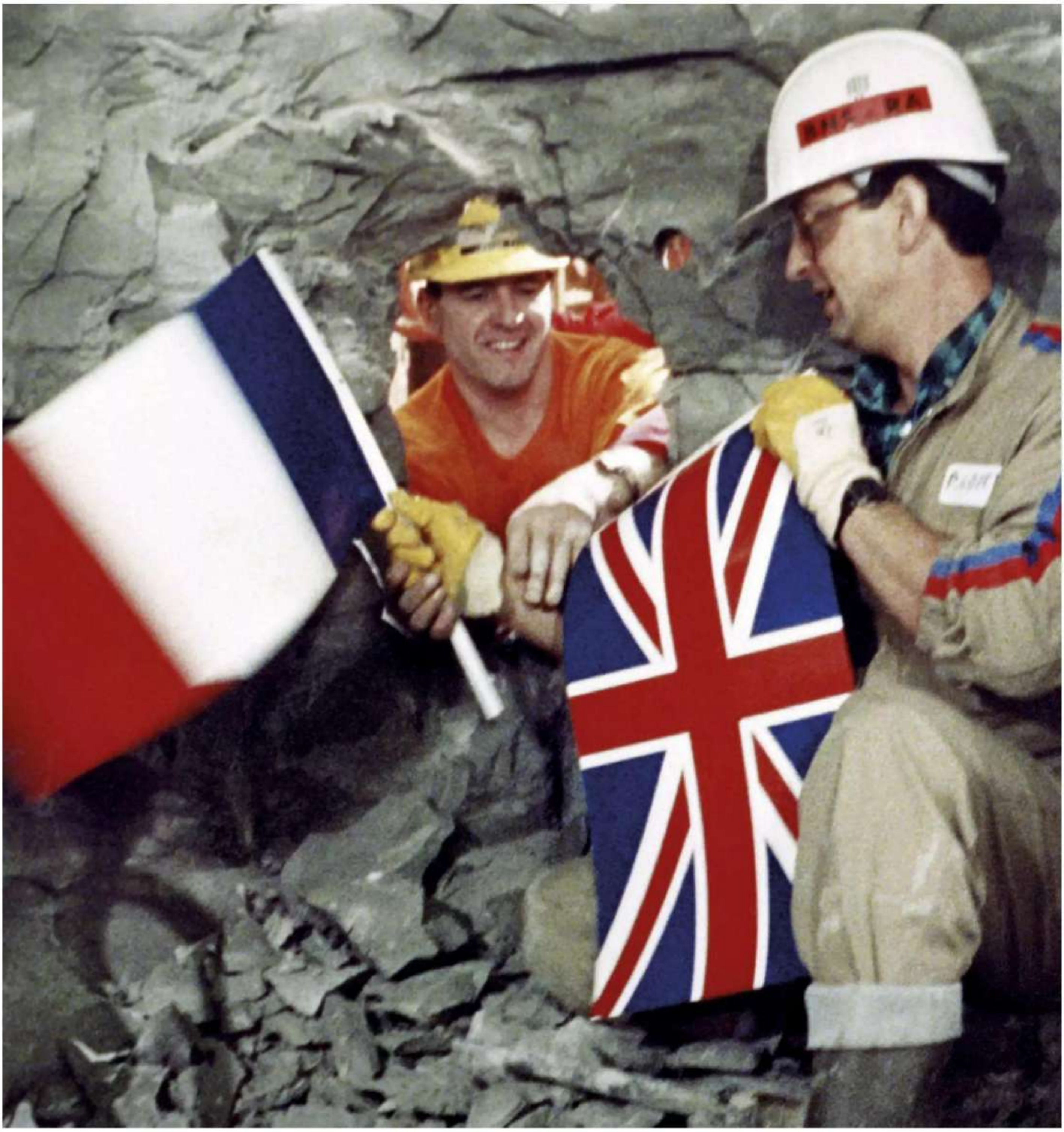

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL 1990

After four years of toil, mainland Europe and Britain were connected again after more than 8,000 years. The Channel Tunnel, affectionately known as the 'Chunnel', runs beneath the English Channel (it's 115 metres below the seabed at its deepest point) and protects a rail link between England and France. Here, Graham Fagg from the English construction team (*left*) and Phillippe Cozette from the French contingent shake hands while holding their respective national flags, after the first connection between the two ends of the tunnel is made. The idea of connecting England and France was suggested as early as 1802, but it wasn't until 1988 that work began between Folkestone in England and Calais in France. Three more years of construction were needed after the milestone meeting (*above*) in 1990, and the tunnel was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II and French President François Mitterrand on 6 May 1994. It remains the longest underwater tunnel in the world, at 37.9 km, and more than 80 million vehicles have travelled through since its opening.

GETTY IMAGES

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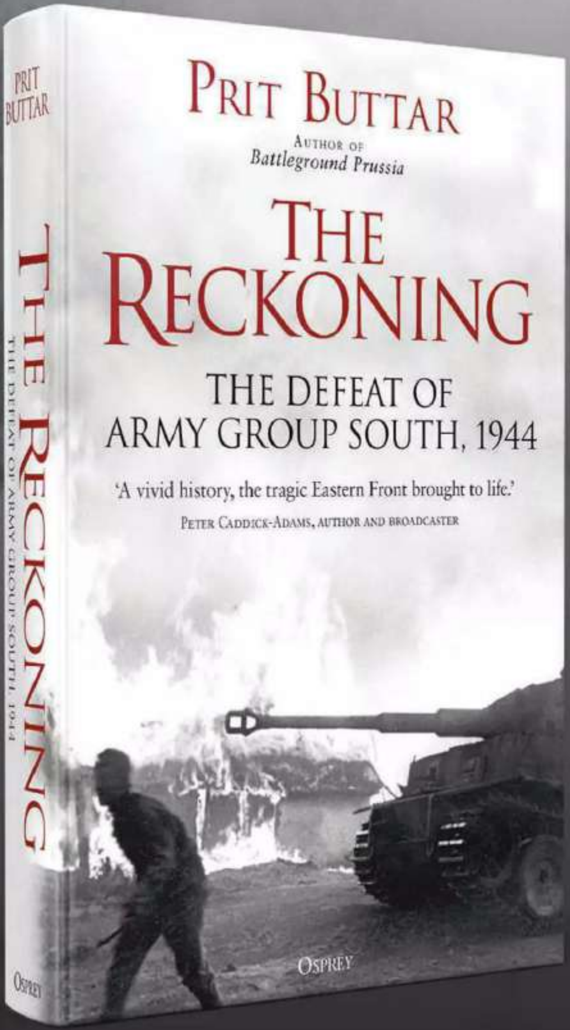
THE RECKONING

THE DEFEAT OF ARMY GROUP SOUTH, 1944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THE DEFEAT OF ARMY GROUP SOUTH, 1944
'A vivid history, the tragic Eastern Front brought to life.'
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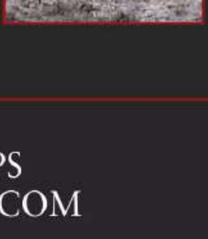
A KNIFE'S
EDGE
THE UKRAINE,
NOVEMBER 1942
–MARCH 1943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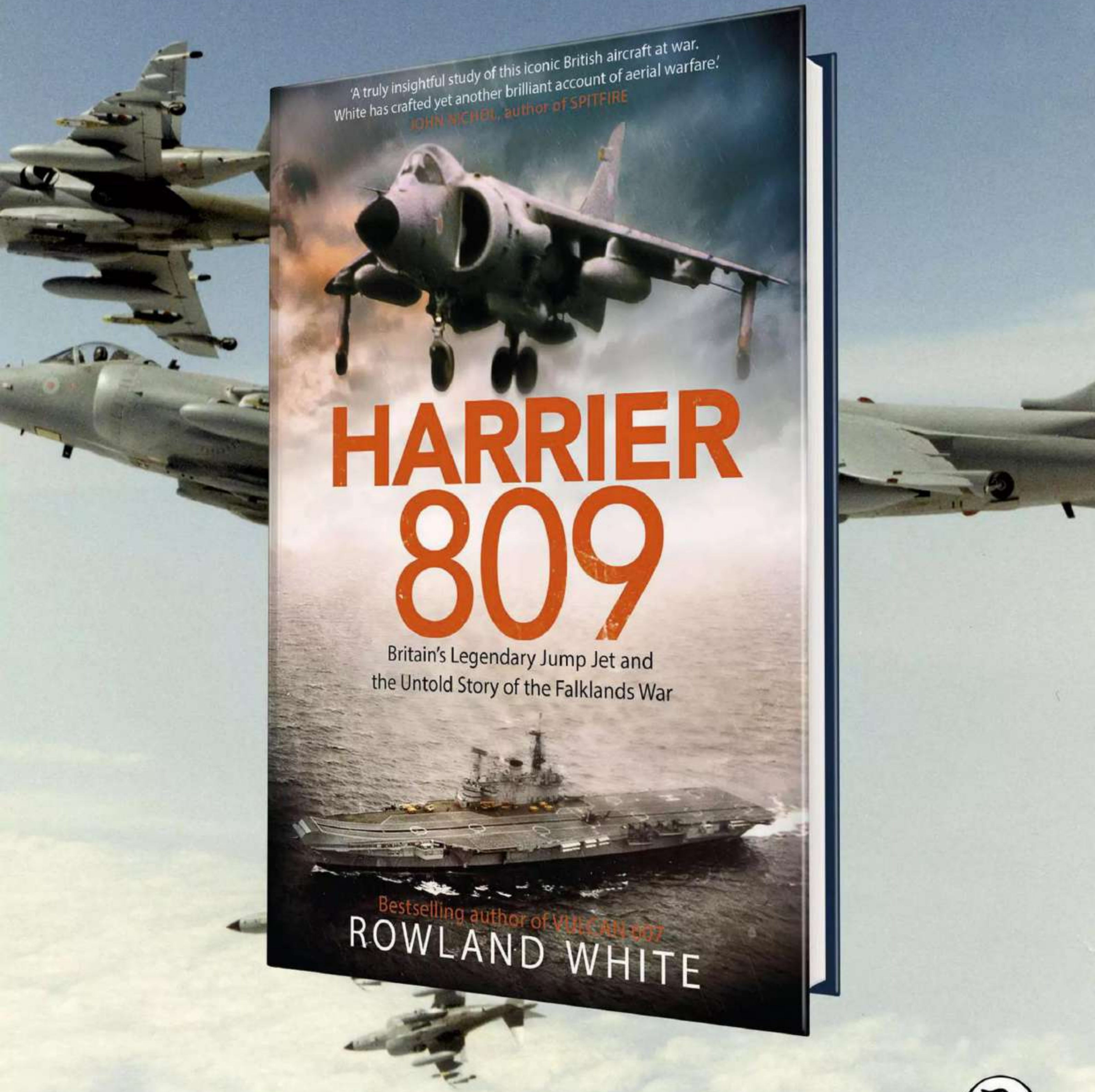
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